Army Specialist 4th Class Larry Garcia SC Alumni – Soldier Inducted into the SC Hall of Fame October 15, 2010

Specialist 4th Class Larry Robert Garcia was born on September 16, 1949 in Casa Grande, AZ. He lived with his family and attended Eloy Elementary and Santa Cruz Valley Union High Schools. While at Santa Cruz, Larry participated in JV football and formed a local rock band with fellow Dust Devils that entertained at several local events. Larry is remembered by many of this fellow classmates at Santa Cruz High School as being a talented musician, athletic and very charismatic.

In the spring of 1969, Larry left Santa Cruz High School to the join the U.S. Army. A member of 14th Artillery, 198th Infantry BDE, 1st Battalion, Americal Division of the US Army, Garcia finished his basic training and was immediately deployed to Vietnam. He reported for duty and began his tour in February, 1970.

On May 18, 1970, under hostile attack by the Viet Cong in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam, Larry's life and service to our country ended. He was 21 years old. He fought in the war zone for three months before his death.

Garcia received countless awards after his death including the Purple Heart, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Award and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Yet the ones that holds true of the badges of valor are those that he shared with this comrades of the 198th Infantry Brigade, along with the Artillery pin, US ARV and the Americal Division. For it is these men, and their families, who gave the ultimate price to protect our country's Freedom.

He was survived by his mother, Lorenza Galindo, his wife, Margaret Garcia, and two young sons. Larry is also survived by countless other family members and friends who have proudly graduated from SCVUHS and/or served our country in the United States Military Services.



