

From: [James Davies](#)
To: [Stacy Spates](#)
Cc: [Catherine Haynes](#)
Subject: Private First Class Gregory Carter
Date: Monday, January 28, 2019 12:37:45 PM

According to US Military Archives and US Marine Corps Files, PFC Gregory Carter was a resident of Fort Lauderdale, FL when he was killed in action in Vietnam. His Mother and Father are deceased. He is buried next to his Mother who has a grave marker. We made every reasonable effort through searches of Public Records, Genealogical Databases, and Social Media to find any *potential* surviving relatives. In the cases where we reached out to *potential* surviving relatives, there was no response.

There can be no guarantee that a surviving relative may not be somewhere. The likelihood of anyone who would not want Carter's grave marked is, in my opinion, very, very remote. To the contrary, in ALL of the cases where we sought photographs and/or grave markers, surviving families were overwhelmed with delight and joy that their loved one was being recognized after being deceased for almost 50 years. Such recognition follows their service and ultimate sacrifice for our country.

I trust this will be sufficient.

James J. Davies
LtCol USMCR(ret)
Wall of Faces National Project
VVA/MCL

From: [James Davies](#)
To: [Stacy Spates](#)
Subject: Re: Gregory Carter Contract
Date: Thursday, January 03, 2019 8:55:10 AM

So we are all on the same page, here is a copy of a note i sent to the Mayor.

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James Davies <daviesjamesj@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 11, 2018, 4:52 PM 


to dtrantalis



On October 12th, 1969, PFC Carter, an African-American Marine was killed in a battle with North Vietnamese Army forces in Quang Ngai Province in South Vietnam. At the time of his death, he was with a Civic Action Platoon Marine Security Force. CAP Units were small groups, usually a 13 man infantry squad assigned to work with units of the South Vietnamese Popular Forces to provide counterinsurgency operations. CAPs were dangerous duty because you were working in small hamlets away from the main Battalion which in Carter's case was 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

Carter's body was returned to Fort Lauderdale where he was buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens. However, for reasons which are unknown, his body lay in an unmarked grave for 49 years.

Over the past year, a working group from the Vietnam Veterans of America spearheaded by VVA Chapter 1036 in The Villages worked with a National effort to find photographs of all US Servicemen/women who were killed in Vietnam for the Wall of Faces, a database built to ensure that everyone on THE WALL in Washington, DC had a photo and small bio so the name would not be simply engraved on a granite slab. The Working Group from Florida was successful in locating the photographs of almost 800 State of Florida KIAs.

As the genealogical research was done, the Group found that some graves had no marker. The members of the Group decided to take action to get a marker from the VA so their graves would be properly marked. As the Marine in the Group, I initiated action to get PFC Carter his marker. I worked with Ms. Roylene Gumbs from the Lauderdale Memorial Park. I obtained the necessary documentation from the Veterans Archives in St Louis. Roylene provided the documentation to the VA and the marker now is at the Cemetery. It was necessary for us to raise the \$395.00 so the Cemetery would install the marker on his grave. I am proud to say that the Marine Corps League Intracoastal Detachment #1058 immediately provided the funding. I expect the marker to be installed this week. I was prepared to pay for it myself but they stepped up.

I expect to have a small dedication ceremony on ?? to honor PFC Carter and perhaps celebrate getting his grave marker at long last. I did not feel that any US Serviceman or woman who died for their Country should lie in an unmarked grave. But, this has been remedied.

We are still putting our arrangements together for the dedication. I would be honored if your schedule would allow you to be present.

Please accept my wishes for a very Happy Holiday Season!

LtCol James J. Davies USMC(ret)
Vietnam 1967-1968
Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines
The Villages, Florida

On Wed, Jan 2, 2019 at 5:14 PM Stacy Spates <SSpates@fortlauderdale.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Davies,

Please give me a call at the number below regarding Pvt. Carter.

Stacy Spates

Cemetery Administrator

City of Fort Lauderdale Municipal Cemeteries

Tel: 954-524-2947

Fax: 954-468-5925

Evergreen Cemetery | Lauderdale Memorial Park Cemetery | Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery | Woodlawn Cemetery



From: Roylene Gumbs
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2019 1:37 PM
To: Stacy Spates
Cc: James Davies
Subject: FW: Gregory Carter Contract
Importance: High

Hi Stacy

Please see below Mr. Davies request for media coverage at Sunset.

From: James Davies <daviesjamesj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 2, 2019 1:22 PM
To: Roylene Gumbs <RGumbs@fortlauderdale.gov>
Subject: Re: Gregory Carter Contract

Happy New Year, Roylene. The Marine Corps League will be holding a Ceremony (30-45 minutes) to dedicate PFC Carter's Graveplate. I expect your Mayor will be attending along with different functionaries from Veteran's Organizations, likely around 30 to 50 people. I am planning on doing this on Saturday, March 23rd at 11:00 AM. If there is an issue with this from a Cemetery viewpoint, please let me know very quickly as I have to put out a Press Release. I expect coverage from local TV stations in the Ft Lauderdale area as well. The Story could go National. As is our practice in the military services, we are respectful to the point of reverence for the Cemetery and property.

On Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 9:09 AM Roylene Gumbs <RGumbs@fortlauderdale.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. James

Please see attached the contract that needs your signature. Please sign and email back to me.

Roylene Gumbs
Family Service Coordinator
City of Fort Lauderdale Municipal Cemeteries
Lauderdale Memorial Park/Sunset Memorial Gardens/Evergreen Cemetery
Tel: 954-828-7050
Tel: 954-828-7051

From: [Catherine Haynes](#)
To: [Stacy Spates](#)
Cc: efrancheschi@fortlauderdale.gov
Subject: Vietnam War casualty grave
Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 7:14:33 PM

Greetings, Ms. Spates,

You were referred to me by Asst. City Clerk Erica Francheschi who had spoken with you on Wednesday afternoon.

I have been on a Florida volunteer committee called Wall of Faces, a national project to put a face with every name that is engraved on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC. Two years ago there were 777 of the 1957 Florida casualties who did not have photographs. In researching a Fort Lauderdale casualty to find his family it was noticed that USMC Pvt. Gregory Carter has been buried without a grave marker for 49 years. Efforts were started to correct that oversight and a Veterans Administrations bronze marker was ordered to place on Pvt. Carter's gravesite which is at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Fort Lauderdale. The cemetery has stated that it will charge \$400 to place the marker in the ground. It is hoped that such a cost could be waived but that it requires actions by the Cemetery System Board of Trustees since the cemetery is municipally owned.

I would like some assistance, perhaps your guidance, on how we can proceed to contact the Cemetery Board, and/or perhaps Mayor Trantalis and the Commissioners to request such a waiver.

A dedication ceremony is being planned, hopefully for the first weekend in February. On the same date and just a few miles further away, another bronze cemetery marker will be dedicated for a Pompano Beach Vietnam War Army casualty who has been in an unmarked grave for 50 years.

The Fort Lauderdale Vietnam War casualty's name is **Gregory Carter**, a Marine Corps Private. He was the son of Annie Carter Owens and Wesley Carter, who were residents of Fort Lauderdale. Pvt. Carter was born 2 June 1950 and was killed by hostile arms fire on 12 October, 1969. He had graduated from Dillard High School.

Thank you for your help in allowing your local citizen to be honored and commemorated for his ultimate sacrifice!

Cathy Haynes

Member/supporter of numerous veteran and military organizations in Central FL
407-239-8468

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi

"We only have one sacred obligation in the government. We have a lot of obligations — to the old, to the young, to educate — but we have only one sacred obligation, and that is to equip those we send to war and care for those we bring home from war. It is the single most significant obligation the United States of America has." - Former VP Joe Biden, at Camp Pendleton on Jan. 21, 2012.

"The smallest act of kindness is larger than the biggest intention." - Unknown

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, caring citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead (Cultural anthropologist)

"Well behaved women seldom make history." - Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (author and historian; Eleanor Roosevelt used the word "rarely" instead of "seldom")

"Never retract, never explain, never apologize; get things done and let them howl." - Nellie McClung (Canadian senator and suffragist)
