



Calvin Ray Cassell
Sergeant First Class U.S. Army
7 June 1967 – 30 June 1988

Calvin was born on 9 September 1949 in Mesa, Arizona. He attended elementary school and high school in Coolidge, Arizona. Right after graduating from high school, Calvin enlisted in the Army as a Private in Phoenix, Arizona, on 7 June 1967. He trained as a Personnel Clerk at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and was then ordered to Vietnam where he joined the 299th Combat Engineer Battalion at Dak To in early 1968. Dak To is located in the central highlands of Vietnam where the borders of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia all come together. The 299th had relocated from Plei Ku in June 1967. In January 1969, while Calvin was serving at Dak To, the North Vietnamese Army began the first phase of the Tet Offensive, simultaneously attacking more than 100 towns and cities throughout Vietnam including Dak To. U.S. Forces at Dak To, as well as elsewhere, successfully defended against the attack throughout the first phase, which lasted until June 1969. Calvin was transferred back to the States in early 1969. Subsequently, he served at Fort Riley, Kansas, initially with the 24th Infantry Division until sometime before the Division was inactivated in April 1970. He was then transferred to the 1st Army Division which had returned to Fort Riley from Vietnam in January 1970. Subsequently, Calvin served in the Panama Canal Zone for about two years, and then returned to Fort Riley until he was discharged from active duty and assigned to the Army Inactive Reserves in September 1976. After his discharge, he went to work as a Prison Guard at Arizona State Prison until September 1977 when he reenlisted in the Army just under a year later. Calvin returned to active duty until retiring from the Army after completing 20 years of active service. He retired as a Sergeant First Class on 30 June 1988 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. For his service, Calvin was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry; Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon; and NCO Professional Development Ribbon. After Calvin was discharged, he went to live in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, and worked as Office Manager for Metal Sales Manufacturing Company in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, for about two years. He then went to work for the Pennsylvania Job Center in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, where he interviewed service veterans for employment until his retirement in 2004. At that time he relocated to Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township where he and his wife, **Barbara Sue Serfess** (born 28 December 1934), settled. Calvin and Barbara were married in Bethany Beach, Delaware. Calvin had a son, **Brian Ray Cassell**, and a step-son, **Michael Todd Gruber**. Calvin's parents were **Cecil Lee Cassell** (26 September 1922 – 24 September 1984) and **Ella Mae Baker** (1922 – 1967). Calvin's father and his brother, **Lee Edward**, also served in the Army.