



## KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS Nomination Guide

### CRITERIA AND ELEMENTS

An applicant for recognition should satisfy the listed minimum number of the elements from each of the three (3) criteria listed below. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirement listed in Criterion I, must meet at least two (2) of the elements from Criterion II, and must meet at least one (1) of the elements from Criterion III.

In addition, the applicant must also furnish a history of achievements. These achievements must have occurred at least one calendar year prior to submission of the application. The honor cannot be conferred unless the history is provided.

Applicants will be reviewed by the Kirkland Park Board, whose decision will be final.

### CRITERION I

#### LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

The following basic eligibility requirement must be met before a nominee can be considered for possible induction.

#### ELEMENTS:

##### 1.1 Level of Achievement

The level of achievement by the individual or team must be explicitly stated and should be the highest possible level of achievement in fields such as science, education, athletics, the arts (music, drama, literary, fine arts, etc), medicine, debate, etc.

The Plaza of Champions is not intended to recognize **lifelong or enduring** achievement in a particular field unless the applicant has previously received an award for such lifelong achievement.

This basic achievement element also provides the opportunity for nomination of first-time achievements (examples: first Kirkland resident to swim the English Channel, first Kirkland individual or group to participate in a national competition, etc.).

If it is not possible to identify the highest possible level of achievement, the applicant must provide a detailed explanation as to why the achievement is considered to be exceptional.

### CRITERION II

#### IDENTITY WITH GREATER KIRKLAND

Applicant must consider Kirkland to be his/her home or identify with Kirkland in such a way that the Kirkland community recognizes the applicant as a "Kirklander."

At least two (2) of the following elements must be met before a nominee can be considered for possible induction.

**ELEMENTS:**

**2.1 Born in the Kirkland area.**

This means that the parent(s) were residing in Kirkland at the time of the candidate's birth.

**2.2 Currently resides in Great Kirkland area.**

Applicant currently has a Kirkland address. Applicant must live at this address at least six months of the year.

**2.3 Lived in Greater Kirkland area for at least ten years or longer and consider Kirkland their home town.**

**2.4 Has improved the quality of life in Greater Kirkland.**

**2.5 Worked (or has worked) within the community or owns a business in Greater Kirkland area.**

The applicant is a past or present Kirkland area business owner or worker who has contributed in a special way to the community.

**2.6 None of the above.**

An applicant may still be considered even if the preceding elements do not apply. Substantial documentation, however, will be required in this instance so as to demonstrate the applicant's identity with Greater Kirkland.

**CRITERION III**

**SIGNIFICANCE OF ACHIEVEMENT**

The applicant must fully explain the significance of the achievement. It must be further specified if the achievement is the result of an individual or team effort. No individual members of a team will be recognized. The team members, however, may be recognized by name.

At least one (1) of the following elements must be met before a nominee can be considered for possible induction.

**ELEMENTS:**

**3.1 Recognition of the achievement by the Kirkland community.**

Applicant must submit a statement which explains how the community has been affected by the achievement as well as the manner in which the community was informed (e.g.,

press coverage received subsequent to achievement – include press clippings and any other examples of media coverage).

**3.2 Peers recognize this achievement as outstanding.**

Persons in the same field must recognize the achievement as outstanding and worthy of recognition. A statement of endorsement for the applicant from leaders in the applicant's field is expected. The peer group may include a person, or persons, residing outside the Kirkland area.

**3.3 Played a key role in a group effort which without this individual's achievement would not have taken place.**

The candidate formed an organization or group and was instrumental in making it operational. The group or organization benefited the community in a demonstrable way.

**3.4 The achievement has improved the quality of life for a large segment of Greater Kirkland area residents.**

For example, the achievement may have resulted in increased educational or recreational opportunities for area residents.

**HISTORY REQUIREMENT**

The history and description of the achievements must be in narrative form and in sufficient detail to completely support the conferring of this award. The person or persons writing the history must provide sufficient in-depth history to enable future readers to completely appreciate the significance of the applicant's contribution. Include, if possible, documents, press clippings, photos, or other examples of media coverage related to the achievement.

If the history is written by anyone other than the applicant, it must be read and signed by the applicant (when possible) and thus documented as a true and accurate account. If the award is conferred, the history will be placed in the Kirkland Library to serve as a reference and permanent record of the achievement.

## KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS HONOREES

<u>1988</u>	<b>JoAnne Gunderson Carner</b>	L.P.G.A. Hall of Fame Golfer
<u>1989</u>	<b>Rick Acton</b>	N.W.P.G.A. Champion Golfer
	<b>Dorothy "Didi" Anstett</b>	1968 Miss U.S.A.
	<b>Hot Dog U.S.A.</b>	World Champion Rope-Skipping Team
	<b>1980 Kirkland National Little League All-Stars</b>	3rd Place in Little League World Series
	<b>1982 Kirkland National Little League All-Stars</b>	Little League World Series Champions
	<b>1975 Tyee/Bel-Kirk Senior Babe Ruth Team</b>	Babe Ruth Baseball World Champions
	<b>Andrew Okada</b>	Collegiate Boxing Champion
	<b>Steven Earl Todd</b>	Champion Wheelchair Athlete
<u>1991</u>	<b>Demetri Corahorgi</b>	Medal of Honor Recipient
	<b>1974 Kirkland National Little League Girls' Softball Team</b>	2nd Place in Little League World Series
	<b>1980, 1990, 1991 Northwest College Women's Basketball Teams</b>	National Christian College Athletic Association National Champions
<u>1992</u>	<b>Julie Ann Gregg</b>	Bicycle Racing Champion
	<b>Chris Sharp</b>	1990 Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism
<u>1993</u>	<b>Rick Colella</b>	1976 Olympic Bronze Medalist - Swimming
<u>1994</u>	<b>1993 Kirkland/District 9 Big League Softball Team</b>	Little League World Champions
<u>1995</u>	<b>Maxine Conover</b>	1958 U.S. National Women's Bicycling Champion
<u>1996</u>	<b>Glen Ethier</b>	1972 International Broadcasting Award and 1973 CLIO Awards for Excellence in Broadcast Advertising
<u>1998</u>	<b>1963 Lakeside Gravel Baseball Team</b>	1963 Connie Mack Baseball National Champions
<u>2001</u>	<b>Randall Garretson</b>	1964 Junior National Ski Jumping Champion 1964 Nordic Combined Junior National Champion
<u>2013</u>	<b>Chris Warren</b>	2008 Emmy Award Excellence in Broadcasting
<u>2015</u>	<b>Billy and Cory Roeseler</b>	Inventors and Pioneers of the Sport of Kiteboarding
<u>2017</u>	<b>Kathy Smith Connor</b>	Competitive Swimming Champion

October 4, 2020

Ms. Susan Baird-Joshi  
Ms. Amanda Judd  
Ms. Uzma Butte  
Mr. Richard Chung  
Mr. Mike Holland  
Mr. Daniel Triplett  
Parks and Community Services  
Plaza of Champions  
123 Fifth Avenue  
Kirkland, WA 98033

RE: Nomination for Plaza of Champions for Wes Carpenter

Dear Members of the Kirkland Park Board,

My name is Shelli Craig and I'm a 4th generation Kirkland resident. In September my mom and I signed up for the Parks Department Scavenger Hunt about the History of Kirkland. In working through the historic clues with my mom and dad I realized how much they know about Kirkland. They both were born in the Kirkland Hospital and have lived in Kirkland their entire lives. While working on the clues one of them lead us to the Plaza of Champions at the Marina. There we had to find the name of a local military person that is honored there for receiving a medal serving in the U.S. Navy. I realized then that my dad, Wes Carpenter, should also be honored in the Plaza of Champions. While serving in Vietnam he received Bronze Star Medal for Heroism with Valor and the Army Commendation Medal for saving many lives.

I believe he is truly a Kirkland hero and upstanding citizen. It has been 53 years since his honorable discharge from the Army and I believe honoring my dad in the Plaza would be an appropriate honor to bestow upon this great Kirkland native, and generous, wonderful man.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

  
Shelli Craig



Enclosures:

Nomination Application Form  
Presentation of Wes Carpenter's tour in Vietnam



## KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS Nomination Application Form

Name of Honored Group or Individual:

Wesley "Wes" Robert Carpenter

Achievement or Award to be Recognized:

Bronze Star Medal for Heroism with Valor and Army Commendation Medal

Date or Dates of Achievement or Award:

1966

Name of Person(s) Submitting Application:

Name: Shelli Craig

Address:

City:

Zip: 98033

Phone:

Email:

Relationship to Honored Group or Individual:

Daughter

If applicable, list members of Group and their roles:

(attach extra page if necessary)

If applicable, list other key individuals and their roles (coach, parent, sponsor, teacher, etc.):

(attach extra page if necessary)

### Agreement

In submitting this application, I understand that the applicant must meet the required qualifications and that this application will be reviewed by the Kirkland Park Board, and that their decision will be final. I further understand that if this application is accepted, a fee of \$200 will be paid to the City of Kirkland to cover the cost of the plaque, engraving, installation, and maintenance. The plaque will not be installed until all application materials are received and the fee has been paid.

Signed:

*Shelli Craig*

Date:

10/4/2020

Signed:

Date:

## KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS

### Application Form

#### Criterion I

#### LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Name of Applicant: Wesley "Wes" Robert Carpenter

Please explain how the applicant meets this eligibility requirement. Attach extra pages as necessary.

Mr. Carpenter, PFC, U.S. Army, was awarded the **Bronze Star Medal with Valor** for heroism in connection with military operations in fierce combat with a Viet Cong battalion in the Battle of Abilene. He laid down a base of fire in his assigned sector. He continued placing a steady and deadly stream of accurate fire into the Viet Cong position until his weapon was shot from his hand. At this time he was so seriously wounded that he could no longer hold his weapon. Looking around his position, he saw many other wounded laying about him. Though not a trained medical aidman, he rendered first aid in a most professional manner. Working under fire and without adequate bandage, he improvised dressing to stop the bleeding. His prompt action saved the lives of many comrades who would have bled to death if left unattended. After treating the wounded, he did what he could to aid and comfort the men in hope of easing some of the pain. He constantly reassured the men that help was on the way. While moving among the patients, he found an unmanned radio which he picked up and moved to a central location. For the remainder of the night he rendered periodic reports to the acting company commander. Throughout the action he was constantly busy moving among his patients and monitoring the radio. Private First Class Carpenter's outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 1st Infantry Division and the United States Army.

Mr. Wes Carpenter, PFC, U.S. Army, was awarded the **Army Commendation Medal**. First Class Carpenter was driving a truck which was carrying an ambush patrol on the return to base camp. Suddenly a large claymore mine was detonated beside the road and several casualties were sustained among the patrol members. The brake lines were severed and several tires were flat. PFC Carpenter immediately dismounted exposed himself to hostile sniper fire to check on his men. When PFC Carpenter had helped the wounded men and made what repairs he could to the truck, he returned to the cab and restarted the truck. In spite of extensive damage to the vehicle, he managed to drive it several miles over rough and unsecured roads to the nearest aid station. The outstanding courage displayed by PFC Carpenter was directly responsible for saving the lives of several men. PFC Carpenter's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

## KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS

### Application Form

#### Criterion II

#### IDENTIFY WITH GREATER KIRKLAND

Name of Applicant: Wesley "Wes" Robert Carpenter

Please explain how the applicant meets at least two (2) of the elements listed for this eligibility requirement. Attach extra pages as necessary.

Element Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

**2.1 Born in Kirkland area** – Wes Carpenter's mother, Ella, moved to Kirkland in 1925 when she was 5 years old. She married Elmer Carpenter and lived on a farm in Houghton when Wes was born at the Kirkland Hospital on December 29, 1943. When Wes was 5 his family moved into the home his dad built in North Rose Hill on Slater Ave NE where he lived the rest of his childhood.

**2.2 Currently resides in Great Kirkland area** – When Wes got married, and after he returned from Vietnam, he rented a home on Slater while he built his house on his parent's property. In 1969 he moved into the finished home and still resides there full-time on Slater Ave NE.

**2.3 Lived in Greater Kirkland area for at least ten years or longer and consider Kirkland their home town** - Wes has lived in Kirkland his entire life, 77 years this December, 2020. He was born in the Kirkland Hospital. He raised his children in Kirkland and now his 5<sup>th</sup> generation Kirkland resident grandson attends Lake Washington High School, Conner Craig. He takes pride that his daughter, Shelli Craig, has been serving the City as an employee for over 15 years. Wes has many siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews that still reside in Kirkland. He considers Kirkland his home town.

**2.4 Has improved the quality of life in Greater Kirkland** – In the late 1960's Wes coached many years of little league. He then went on to coach the Kirkland Babe Ruth team, sponsored by Bel-Kirk Motors, for a few years and the team won two Regional Tournaments and two State Championships. He also served as the Chinook League as president and as assistant state director for two years. Since then he has been a good citizen and friend to anyone he meets.

**2.5 Worked (or has worked) within the community or owns a business in Greater Kirkland area** - Before Vietnam Wes worked at Rocket U-Save Oil Co. gas station in Houghton when gas was 23 cents a gallon. He made the newspaper for trying to stop a robbery. He built out the home garage into a Hair Salon where his wife ran her salon for many decades.

**Additional:** While working through the historic clues to the Parks Department Scavenger Hunt with my mom and dad I realized how much they know about Kirkland. One of the clues led us to the Plaza of Champions at the Marina. There we found the name of a local person that is honored for receiving a medal serving in the U.S. Navy. I realized then that my dad should also be honored in the Plaza of Champions. I believe he is truly a Kirkland hero. I believe honoring my dad in the Plaza of Champions would be an appropriate honor to bestow upon this great Kirkland native, upstanding citizen, and generous, wonderful man.

## KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS

### Application Form

#### Criterion III

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Name of Applicant: Wesley "Wes" Robert Carpenter

Please explain how the applicant meets at least one (1) of the elements listed for this eligibility requirement. Attach extra pages as necessary.

Element                      Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

**3.1 Recognition of the achievement by the Kirkland community** – The community of Kirkland back in 1966 took pride in that one of their sons was honorably serving the country in the U.S. Army. The community was kept up to date on the status of Wes while he was deployed in Vietnam in several articles that were published about him in The Eastside Journal (attached). The Eastside Journal at that time covered Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue and Bothell and was the prominent news source. The Eastside Journal was being sent to Wes in Vietnam through the Courtesy of the Kirkland Jaycees and The Journal as stated at the end of one of the published articles about Wes titled Local soldier one of two not hurt in V.C. ambush.

**3.2 Peers recognize this achievement as outstanding** – The Army Award Announcement letters for the Bronze Star and Commendation medal are attached. These letters state that the achievement of these medals is for Carpenter's actions which "are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Infantry Division, and the United States Army. By the direction of the Secretary of the Army"

**3.3 Played a key role in a group effort which without this individual's achievement would not have taken place** - The Army Award Announcement letters for the Bronze Star and Commendation medal are attached. These letters state the actions of Wes which resulted in saving the lives of fellow military members. Stated in the Award of the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism, "His prompt actions saved the lives of many comrades who would have bled to death if left unattended." Stated in the Award of the Army Commendation Medal, "The outstanding courage displayed was directly responsible for saving the lives of several men."

**3.4 The achievement has improved the quality of life for a large segment of Greater Kirkland area residents** – While on tour in Vietnam he was given a day off and went into Saigon. He had been fortunate enough to bring along a camera and took many pictures of the landscape, town, and people of Saigon to share when he came home. After returning from Vietnam, Wes didn't talk much about his tour and didn't consider himself a hero. However, when asked by Lake Washington High School to come to classes to share what he learned about Vietnam he graciously brought along his slides and shared them with the classes. He talked about the beauty of the landscape and the welcoming nature of the Vietnamese people in Saigon. The pictures of those Saigon slides are included in the attached presentation of Wes's tour in Vietnam. Wes represented the City of Kirkland honorably while serving in the military and continues to do so as an upstanding citizen.

## **KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS**

### **Application Form**

#### **History Requirement**

Name of Applicant: Wesley "Wes" Robert Carpenter

Using the criteria and elements as a guide, please furnish a complete history and description of the achievement in narrative form. Attach extra pages as necessary. Please note that if the history is prepared by anyone other than the applicant, it must be read and signed by the applicant (when possible) and documented as a true account. Please include, if possible, documents, press clippings, photos, or other examples of media coverage related to the achievement.

Please see attached document containing the history and description of the achievement in narrative form with documents, press clippings and photos.

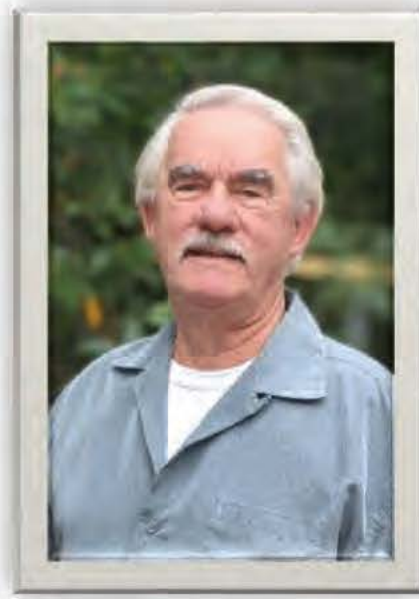
There is also an attached presentation documenting Wes Carpenter's tour in Vietnam.

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# Wesley “Wes” Robert Carpenter



1966



2020

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*Nomination for The Plaza of Champions for Heroic actions that lead to receiving the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism with Valor and the Army Commendation Medal*

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## Identify with Greater Kirkland

Wes Carpenter is a 3rd generation Kirkland resident. Wes' maternal grandparents moved to Kirkland in 1925 shortly after moving to the country from New Westminster, British Columbia when his mom, Ella, was 3 years old. He was born at the Kirkland Hospital on December 29, 1943 when his parents Elmer and Ella Carpenter lived on a farm in Houghton. When Wes was 5 years old his dad completed building their family home in North Rose Hill and they moved to Slater Ave NE where he lived the rest of his childhood. He attended Rose Hill Elementary, Kirkland Jr. High and graduated from Lake Washington High School where he still attends the Golden Grad class reunions. His mom's parents lived on the property that is now Costco and his dad's parents lived on property off 132nd in North Rose Hill. His dad worked at the Kirkland Shipyards, fought forest fires in Eastern Washington as a volunteer firefighter and retired from US Plywood in Ballard. Those who sewed in Kirkland back in the 70-80's would know Wes' mom Ella Carpenter as her dad had been a tailor and taught her how to make clothes which made her the expert at the local fabric store where she worked for many years. Ella was an avid gardener and grew many Rhododendrons. When she was working for Griswold Nursery in South Rose Hill the staff, while visiting Ella's home, discovered a new species of Rhododendrons which had

formed in her garden. Shortly before her death in 2006 that flower was recognized as a new species and named the Ella Carpenter. Wes is one of 5 children in the Carpenter family, all still living, that lived and raised families in Kirkland.

One of Wes' first jobs was working at Rocket U-Save Oil Co. gas station in Houghton. He made the newspaper for trying to stop a robbery. Wes married his Lake Washington High School sweetheart and Houghton native, Carol Wilson, daughter of Clyde and Senja "Pat" Wilson. Her dad was a Houghton Police Officer and reserve Firefighter, and a mechanic for Smith Gandy Ford and HOS trucking. Shortly after his wedding Wes was deployed to Vietnam. When he returned from Vietnam, he rented a home on Slater until he built his house on his parent's property also on Slater. In 1969 he moved his family into the finished home and still resides there today.

His wife, Carol, became a Hairdresser and worked at the Hair Tamer in Kingsgate before Wes converted one side of their garage into a hair salon so she could work from home to be there for their two children, Eddy and Shelli. In the late 1960s Wes coached many years of little league. He then went on to coach the Kirkland Babe Ruth team, sponsored by Bel-Kirk Motors, for a few years and the team won two Regional Tournaments and two State Championships. He also served as the Chinook League as President and as Assistant State Director for two years. Wes' dad died when Wes was 28. His youngest sister and brother were still attending Lake Washington High School at the time. Later when his sister got married, he took the place of his dad to give her away at her wedding. Wes worked his way up in the Langendorf Bread Company and finished his career in a regional position at Associated Grocers before retiring in 2006. He raised his children in Kirkland through baseball and softball leagues, and now his 5<sup>th</sup> generation Kirkland resident grandson attends Lake Washington High School, Conner Craig. He takes pride that his daughter, Shelli Craig, has been serving the City as an employee for over 15 years. Wes has many siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews that still reside in Kirkland. He considers Kirkland his home town and can cite many changes to the City including one of his favorite memories when there was only one stop light between downtown Kirkland and Fall City and it was for the Kirkland ferry dock traffic. Wes and Carol celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year and still live in the same house. Wes has been a good citizen and friend to anyone he meets. If you pass him walking his grand-dog in the morning on Slater you will be greeted by a wave and a welcome to start up a conversation. Wes has lived in Kirkland his entire life, 77 years this coming December, 2020.

## Significance of Achievement

This is the History of Wesley Carpenter's tour in the Army which lead to receiving the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism with Valor and the Army Commendation Medal. In 1965 the United States was engaged in a military action in Vietnam. Wesley Carpenter, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation resident of Kirkland, was drafted into the Army in April of 1965 at the age of 21. He attended basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In July he transferred to Advanced Infantry Training at Fort ORD, California and then attended Drill Sergeant School eventually becoming an Assistant Drill Sergeant. In December his orders were changed from being a Drill Sergeant to being deployed to combat in Vietnam as part of Charlie Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's

16<sup>th</sup> Infantry, aka The Big Red 1. Before shipping to Vietnam, he returned home to Kirkland to marry his high school sweetheart, Carol Wilson from Houghton.

Wes Carpenter arrived in Vietnam in January of 1966. In April of 1966 his C Company was sent into the jungle in Operation Abilene. Far into the jungle and without backup his Company was ambushed by hostile forces. He laid down a base of fire in his assigned sector. He continued placing a steady and deadly stream of accurate fire into the Viet Cong position until his weapon was shot from his hand. At this time, he was so seriously wounded that he could no longer hold his weapon. Looking around his position, he saw many other wounded laying about him. Though not a trained medical aidman, he rendered first aid in a most professional manner. Working under fire and without adequate bandage, he improvised dressing to stop the bleeding. His prompt action saved the lives of many comrades who would have bled to death if left unattended. After treating the wounded, he did what he could to aid and comfort the men in hope of easing some of the pain. He constantly reassured the men that help was on the way. While moving among the patients, he found an unmanned radio which he picked up and moved to a central location. For the remainder of the night he rendered periodic reports to the acting company commander. Throughout the action he was constantly busy moving among his patients and monitoring the radio. PFC Carpenter's outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 1st Infantry Division and the United States Army. Mr. Wes Carpenter, PFC Carpenter, U.S. Army, was awarded the **Bronze Star Medal with Valor** for heroism in connection with military operations in fierce combat with a Viet Cong battalion in the Battle of Abilene. He was also awarded **The Purple Heart** for injuries sustained in this battle.

After this battle PFC Carpenter returned home to Kirkland to spend time with his wife and family. When he returned back to Vietnam, he was assigned to driving ambush patrol teams in a deuce and a half truck. In December of 1966 PFC Carpenter was driving a truck which was carrying an ambush patrol on the return to base camp. Suddenly a large claymore mine was detonated beside the road and several casualties were sustained among the patrol members. The brake lines were severed and several tires were flat. PFC Carpenter immediately dismounted exposed himself to hostile sniper fire to check on his men. When PFC Carpenter had helped the wounded men and made what repairs he could to the truck, he returned to the cab and restarted the truck. In spite of extensive damage to the vehicle, he managed to drive it several miles over rough and unsecured roads to the nearest aid station. The outstanding courage displayed by PFC Carpenter was directly responsible for saving the lives of several men. PFC Carpenter's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Infantry Division, and the United States Army. Mr. Wes Carpenter, PFC, U.S. Army, was awarded the **Army Commendation Medal**.

Mr. Carpenter returned home to Kirkland in January of 1967 and received an honorable discharge from the Army.

While on tour in Vietnam Wes was given a day off and went into Saigon. He had been fortunate enough to bring along a camera and took many pictures of the landscape, town, and people of Saigon to share when he came home. After returning from Vietnam, Wes did not talk much about his tour and did not consider himself

a hero. However, when asked by Lake Washington High School to come to classes to share what he learned about Vietnam he graciously brought along his slides and shared them with the students. He talked about the beauty of the landscape and the welcoming nature of the Vietnamese people in Saigon. The pictures of those Saigon slides are included in the attached presentation of Wes's tour in Vietnam.

Wes represented the City of Kirkland honorably while serving in the military and continues to do so as an upstanding citizen.

This history and description of this achievement was recounted by Shelli Craig, Wes's daughter, from conversations with Wes Carpenter and from newspaper clippings.

I, Wes Carpenter, attest that this is a true account of this information.

Wes Carpenter Date: 10/4/2020  
Wesley Robert Carpenter

#### To the Kirkland Park Board

In September my mom and I signed up for the Parks Department Scavenger Hunt about the History of Kirkland. In working through the historic clues with my mom and dad I realized how much they know about Kirkland. One of the clues led us to the Plaza of Champions at the Marina. There we had to find the name of a local military person that is honored there for receiving a medal serving in the U.S. Navy. I realized then that my dad should also be honored in the Plaza of Champions. I believe he is truly a Kirkland hero. Vietnam ended in April of 1975. Now 45 years later from that ending and 53 years since his honorable discharge from the Army, I believe honoring my dad in the Plaza would be an appropriate honor to bestow upon this great Kirkland native, upstanding citizen, and generous, wonderful man.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Shelli Craig

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## Significance of Achievement Documentation

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News article published in The Eastside Journal in December 1966 before shipping off to Vietnam:



## Bronze Star Medal for Heroism with Valor Award Letter:

HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO San Francisco 96345

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 763

23 May 1966

### SECTION I

#### AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CARPENTER, WESLEY R- US56380504 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States Army  
Company C, 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry

Awarded: The Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device  
Effective month: May 1966  
Date of action: 11 April 1966  
Theater: Republic of Vietnam  
Reason: For heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force: On this date, his company was engaged in fierce combat with an estimated Viet Cong battalion. During the initial encounter Private First Class Carpenter laid down a base of fire in his assigned sector. He continued placing a steady and deadly stream of accurate fire into the Viet Cong position until his weapon was shot from his hand. At this time he was so seriously wounded that he could no longer hold his weapon. Looking around his position, he saw many other wounded lying about him. Though not a trained medical aidman, he rendered first aid in a most professional manner. Working under fire and without adequate bandage, he improvised dressings to stop the bleeding. His prompt actions saved the lives of many comrades who would have bled to death if left unattended. After treating the wounded, he did what he could to aid and comfort the men in the hope of easing some of the pain. He constantly reassured the men that help was on the way. While moving among the patients, he found an unattended radio which he picked up and moved to a central location. For the remainder of the night he rendered periodic reports to the acting company commander. Throughout the action he was constantly busy moving among his patients and monitoring the radio. Private First Class Carpenter's outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 1st Infantry Division, and the United States Army.  
Authority: By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046.

### SECTION II

#### AWARD OF THE ARMY COMENDATION MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.



Bronze Medal article published by The Eastside Journal:



Battle of Abilene article published by The Eastside Journal. This is the battle that resulted in the Bronze Star Medal and The Purple Heart.

Pfc. Carpenter:

## Local soldier one of two not hurt in V.C. ambush

By CHARLES O. MORGAN

Every member of the Wesley Carpenter family of Kirkland had his heart in the mouth and prayer on his lips when newspapers told of "C" Company being wiped out last month in Viet Nam. Pfc. Wesley Carpenter was one of two army soldiers left unhurt out of a platoon of 37 men when this

company was decimated by a Viet Cong ambush on April 12.

The action took place about 50 miles from Saigon.

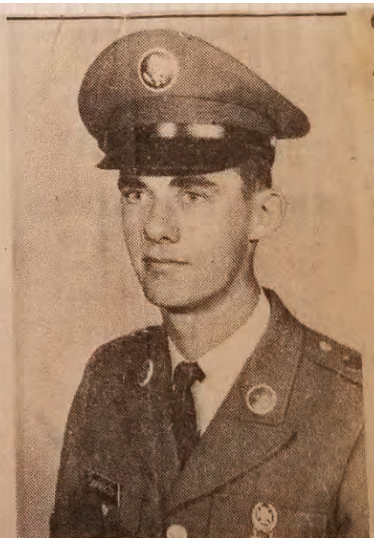
\* \* \*

IN A letter to his wife Carol (nee Wilson) and his parents, Pfc. Wesley told how the Viet Cong hit them from all sides after they had separated from Companys "B" and "A" for one day.

It is almost inconceivable to the folks at home remote from the jungles and filth of Viet Nam of the terror of an attack such as Pfc. Wesley Carpenter underwent with fellow soldiers less than one month ago.

His own words to his wife best describe the action:

"We got a little sniper fire  
(Continued on Page 6)



PFC. CARPENTER  
Survives Viet Ambush

# Pfc. Wes Carpenter 1 of only 2 unhurt

(Continued from Page 1)  
here and there and we got one man killed and 11 wounded. We were in real thick jungle. We cleared a small hole so a helicopter could lower a rope and get the wounded.

"Just as the 'copter took off with the wounded, the V.C. opened up on us from every side, we didn't have a chance. They had .50 caliber machine guns on four sides of us and a whole bunch of .60 caliber machine guns, grenades, mortars and everything. We fought as we could.

"My gun was shot right out of my hands and I moved back to the middle of the people but they were all dead. I reached to grab another rifle and a tree fell on me. I thought I was a goner. I could not move and men were yelling and dying all over.

"After the firing had stopped they (the V.C.) were coming in to kill us all, but our artillery came down on us, so they ran off with many of our weapons and gear.

"There were a few men still able to move around, so I yelled to someone to get the tree off my back and he did. It took 15 minutes for the feeling to get back in my legs, and then I started moving from man to man. It was so dark by then I couldn't see too much but I could hear the yelling for help. I crawled to as many men as I could and saved a lot of them from bleeding to death.

"This one man had five little children and I worked on him for hours and gave him mouth to mouth resuscitation but he died in my arms.

\*\*\*  
"THEN I hear a Lieutenant yelling for help, he was from another platoon but I went to him. He was shot five times, three in the back, once in the shoulder and once in the leg. The man was bleeding so bad I used anything I could grab to stop the bleeding but I couldn't stop it for a while. I worked on him for hours until I did. We hadn't had water for a long time and all the wounded men were yelling for water. I crawled to as many as I could find and gave them water I had found off the dead men's canteens.

"Then I grabbed a radio and was keeping in contact with 'B' Company and the artillery telling them how to get to us. 'B' Company had walked all day and now had to walk 1000 meters at night in the jungle and that's damn near impossible.

"I went back to the Lieutenant and carried him to where the other men were still living and could be able to fight. In the morning 'B' Company came with water and doctors, all our doctors were shot or wounded. I saved so many lives but was unable to save as many as I wanted to.

"Out of 150 men, 35 dead, 67 wounded and about the rest of us left with a few nicks here and there. In my platoon of 37 there was only two people unhurt and able to walk, it was me and a new man, Ed Morgan. We had nine killed and all the rest all wounded. Leroy will be alright, he just got a bullet

in the leg and it didn't hit the bone, thank God.

"So God was with us all the way. Please reassure Mom I am alright." . . . Wes."

\*\*\*

IN A later letter to his mother and father, Carpenter told that General Westmoreland congratulated the survivors. The general had discovered, he told them, that the Viet Cong had only one mission and that was to kill everybody in "C" Company because they had killed and destroyed so much of the V.C. food supply and equipment. A total of 800 V.C. had been killed. The U.S. forces dug up one hole, Wesley wrote, and found 150 V.C. bodies.

There were an estimated 1,000 V.C. in the attack on "C" Company and only 150 Americans.

This letter was written two days after the attack and reflected some of the shock of the experience, his mother noted.

Pfc. Carpenter graduated from Lake Washington High School in 1963, joined the army April 13, 1965, and went to Viet Nam Jan. 25 this year.

"I'd rather be here than have Rick, Gary or Marty here," he has written. He was referring to his younger brother Rick, in Redmond Junior High School, and his twin cousins, Gary and Marty Johnson. John is in the Navy in San Diego. His sister, Cheri, attends 6th grade at Mark Twain Elementary School, and his married sister, Mrs. Tom Doucette lives in Kirkland.

The family sends him cake and cookies and his favorite is beef jerky for eating while on the move, his mother reports. The most knowing yearning is for fresh fruit, apples and oranges, she added. Anything that is mailed is individually wrapped in foil and is received in about four days, Mrs. Carpenter reported.

"I've been getting The Journal regularly now," Pfc. Carpenter closed his last letter. He was referring to the subscription sent through the courtesy of the Kirkland Jaycees and The Journal to all service personnel overseas.

Wes Carpenter did not talk much about his experiences in Vietnam until the movie *The Last Full Measure* came out in 2020 which recounts The Battle of Abilene. In the movie the helicopter lowers the medic from a helicopter into the jungle to retrieve wounded men. Wes helped clear the jungle for this maneuver and watched the medic lower down right next to him. He is listed in the credits of this movie as one of the “Mud Soldiers” as they were referred to. His name is listed as Wesley Carpenter. If you would like to see what Wes Carpenter experienced during the battle that resulted in the award of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor you can watch this movie as it is an accurate depiction of the battle.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

##### MUD SOLDIERS - CHARLIE CO, 2ND BATTALION 14TH INFANTRY, FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION

WILLIAM NOLAN, KENNETH ALDERSON, SMITH DEVOE, MARTY KROAH, JOHN LIBS, GEORGE STEINBERG, FRANK FOX  
HIDENOSU TAKEGUCHI, MARION ACTON, RICHARD ADINOLPHI, STEVE ANTAL, JOHN BABINO, CLARENCE BARNES  
THOMAS BASH, KENNETH BEECH, GREGORY BISHOP, DOUGLAS BLANKHEIM, HOWARD BLEYINS  
JOHN BRADLEY, ALVIN BROWN, GLEN BROWNING, DALLAS BUCANNAN, CARL BUCKLEY, DAVID BURRIS  
ANDREW CAMPBELL, WESLEY CARPENTER, WILLIAM CAUSEY, GARY CHANEY, RALPH COLEMAN, CHESTER COMBS  
JOSEPH COREY, PAUL CORN, JOHN DAVIS, GILBERT DELAO, DONALD DERMONT JR., DENNIS DESCO, CHARLIE EPPERSON  
PETE FABERSKI, PHIL YAW FEE, RAYMOND FIJOL, JAMES FINNEY, BOB FISHER, JOHN FULFORD, PHILLIP GARDNER  
RICHARD GARNER, EUGENE GARRETT, EDWARD GEORGE, BOZY GERALD, JAMES GERKE, LARRY GRIFFITT, RONALD HALEY  
PHILLIP J. HALL, DONALD HALL, DAVID HAMMETT, ROGER HARRIS, CHARLES HARVEY, NORMAN HAWKINS, BURT HEATH  
HERSCHELL HOLMAN, BOB HOLTON, HAROLD HUNTER, LEONARDUS INKELAAR, ROBERT JOHNSEY, ROBERT A. JOHNSON  
ROBERT JOHNSON, PHILIP JONES, DANIEL KIRBY, CARL KLOPHER, MILTON LADER, JACK LANCASTER, DOUGLAS LANDRY  
JOHN LANG, LANGFORD, LEROY LARK, BRUCE LASURE, EDWIN LEVERING, STANLEY LEWINSKI, RICHARD MANLEY  
DOMINGO MARADIEGUE, DAVID MARCHETTI, EMMETT MAYS JR., JOSEPH MISONI, JOHN MILLER, KEN MIZE, ROBERT MORAN  
FRED NAVARRO, JOHN NOYCE, RICHARD NOYOLA, CHARLES OGALSBY, OWENS, ISRAEL PACHECO, LAWSON PASSMORE  
DAVID PETERS, DONALD PHILLIPS, TED PINER, RANDALL PRINZ, EDWARD REILLY, ROBERT REXROAD, WILLIAM RICHARDS  
REDICK, JAMES ROBINSON, ROBERT ROHL, RONALD ROTH, ROLF SCHOOLMAN, RONALD SEASHOLTZ  
JOHN SEVILLE, HENRY SHIVER, VERNON SHELLMAN, JC SHORT, JOSEPH SMITH, MICHAEL SNELLGROVE, THOMAS STEELE  
DANIEL STEWARD, “BABY FACE” STIFFER, GALEN SUMMERLOT, HUGH SUTTERFIELD, LEROY TOUSANT, CHARLES URCONIS  
DEAN VAN DYKE, RALPH YOGELI, DANIEL WALDEN, LARRY WALKER, GEORGE WARD, JOHN WATKINS, KENNETH WELCH  
JIM WEST, CHARLES WEYANT, MIKE WILLIS, BENNIE WILSON, IRYIN WILSON, BOB WHITE, JOHN WHITTIER

BIEN HOA EAGLES - DET 6, 38TH ARRS, BIEN HOA AB, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

RONALD L. BACHMAN, ROY A. BOUDREAUX, WILLIAM L. CHIVALETTE, RICHARD ALLEN CONNON, JOHN DAGNEAU III

Letter from Washington State Senator, Henry M. Jackson, to Wes Carpenter's mom Ella.

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN  
JOHN STENNIS, MISS.  
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.  
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.  
SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.  
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.  
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.  
STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO  
DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII  
THOMAS J. MCINTYRE, N.H.  
DANIEL B. BREWSTER, MD.  
HARRY F. BYRD, JR., VA.  
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.  
MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE  
STROM THURMOND, S.C.  
JACK MILLER, IOWA  
JOHN G. TOWER, TEX.

WILLIAM H. DARDEN, CHIEF OF STAFF  
CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

December 20, 1966

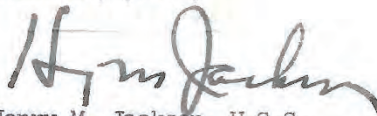
Mrs. Elmer Carpenter  
Orth Slater  
Kirkland, Washington

Dear Mrs. Carpenter:

During my recent trip to Vietnam as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I had an opportunity for a brief visit with your son, PFC Carpenter, on December 5 near An Loc.

He was in good spirits and wanted me to be sure and say "hello." I want you to know how proud I am of your son and all that he is doing for our country.

Sincerely yours,



Henry M. Jackson, U.S.S.

HMJ:f

## Army Commendation Medal Award Letter:

HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO San Francisco 96345

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 3625

21 May 1967

### AWARD OF THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

CARPENTER, WESLEY R. US56380504 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States Army  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2d Battalion 16th Infantry

Awarded: Army Commendation Medal with "V" device

Date of action: 22 December 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism: On this date, Private First Class Carpenter was driving a truck which was carrying an ambush patrol on their return to base camp. Suddenly a large claymore mine was detonated beside the road and several casualties were sustained among the patrol members. The vehicle was stopped with five of its six tires flat and the drive train broken open. Private First Class Carpenter immediately dismounted and exposed himself to hostile sniper fire as he moved to the rear of the vehicle to administer first aid to the casualties. When Private First Class Carpenter had treated the wounded men and made what repairs he could to the truck, he returned to the cab and restarted the truck. In spite of extensive damage to the vehicle, he managed to drive it several miles over rough and unsecured roads to the nearest aid station. The outstanding courage displayed by Private First Class Carpenter was directly responsible for saving the lives of several men. Private First Class Carpenter's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of AR 672-5-1.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

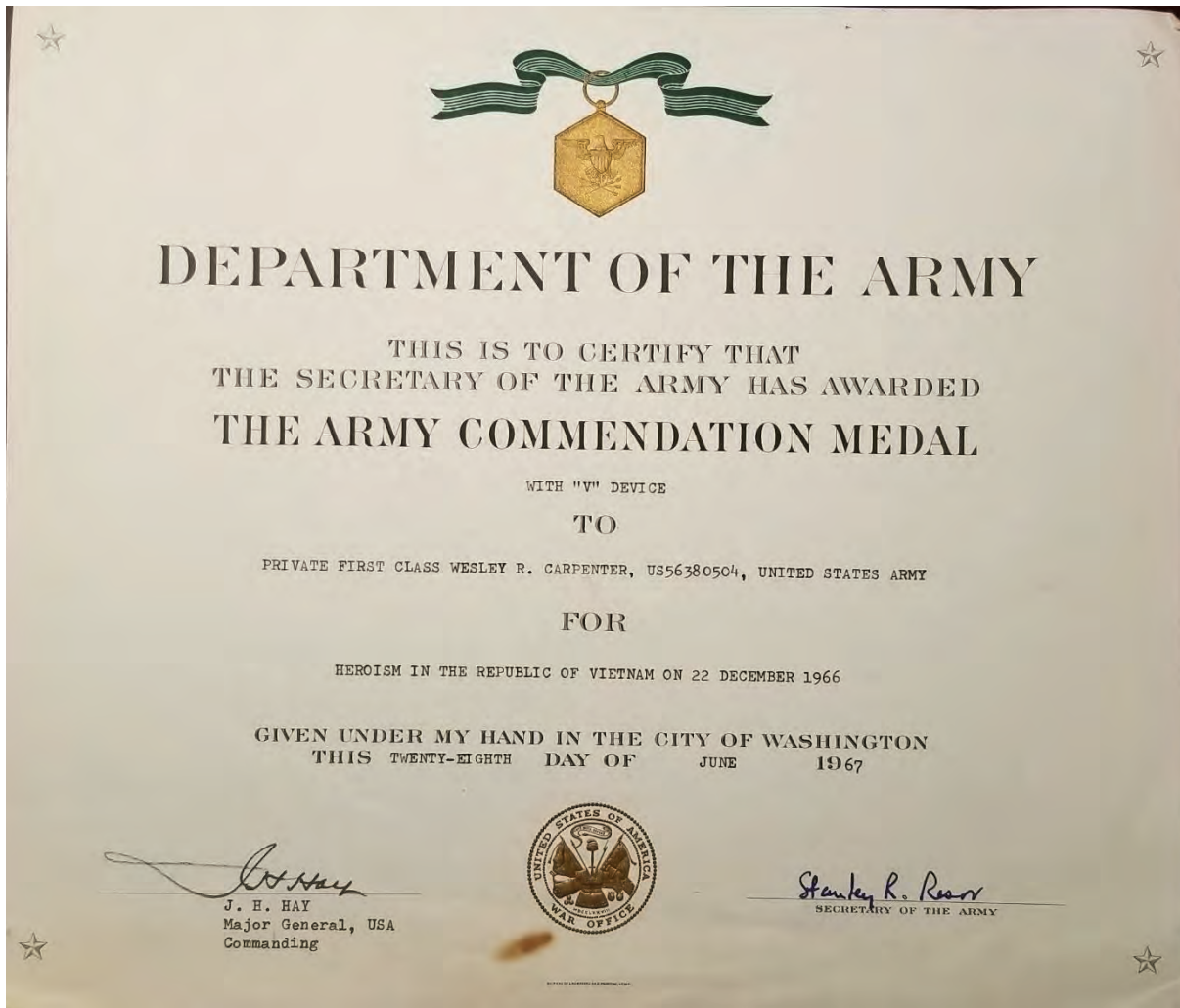
OFFICIAL:



ALAN H. BADINE  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

EDWARD B. KITCHENS, JR.  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

Army Commendation Medal Certificate:



Article published in The Eastside Journal about the incident that led to the Army Commendation Medal. Wes is in picture on the right.

## Army cites Carpenter for 'valor'

Wesley Carpenter, who has been out of the Army since January, recently received an Army Commendation Medal with "V" (for valor) Device for Heroism.

The incident for which Carpenter was cited occurred Dec. 22, 1966 in Vietnam and was recounted with the citation.

Carpenter was driving an army truck carrying an ambush patrol on return to base camp when a mine was detonated along the road. Several casualties were sustained among patrol members and the vehicle was stopped with five of its six tires flat.

Pfc. Carpenter dismounted and exposed himself to sniper fire as he moved to the rear of the vehicle to administer first aid to casualties. After treating wounded and making repairs he could to truck, Carpenter returned to cab and restarted truck. In spite of extensive damage he drove it several miles to nearest aid station.

According to the Army citation, Carpenter's courage was directly responsible for saving the lives of several men. The commendation medal was given by the direction of the Secretary of the Army.



## Family has Christmas 'second time around'

By SHIRLEY LINDAHL

According to the calendar it is Jan. 25, but the Christmas tree is still up, the outdoor lights are still in place, the house is aglitter with Christmas decorations and the turkey is in the freezer.

This is the festive scene at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Carpenter, 10415 N. Slater, this week for they are celebrating Christmas. Actually, it will be the second installment of this special day for they only had part of their family present when they celebrated on Dec. 25. Everything has been kept in readiness for the return of the two older boys who were expected home on military leaves a month later.

As an added surprise, when their son, Wesley, arrived home early Thursday morning he an-

nounced he had just received his discharge from the Army which had not been anticipated until April.

This young Rose Hill man has seen a great deal of action during his year in Vietnam. Following an ambush while on patrol in "Operation Abilene," he was one of only 17 survivors and for his efforts to aid the wounded he received the Bronze Star. For injuries sustained in this and other skirmishes he was awarded two Purple Hearts.

Just two days before Christmas he was driving a troop carrier truck with the Big Red outfit when it struck a mine. Seeking help for the 22 wounded men, he drove the heavily damaged truck with five flat tires and no brakes two miles back to camp. Again his concern for the lives of others as he aided

the injured was recognized as he was given the Army Commendation Medal.

While relieved to be home, he no doubt reflects frequently on what he has experienced the past year. Presently he and his wife, Carol, are residing in Houghton at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wilson, 10127 N.E. 63rd.

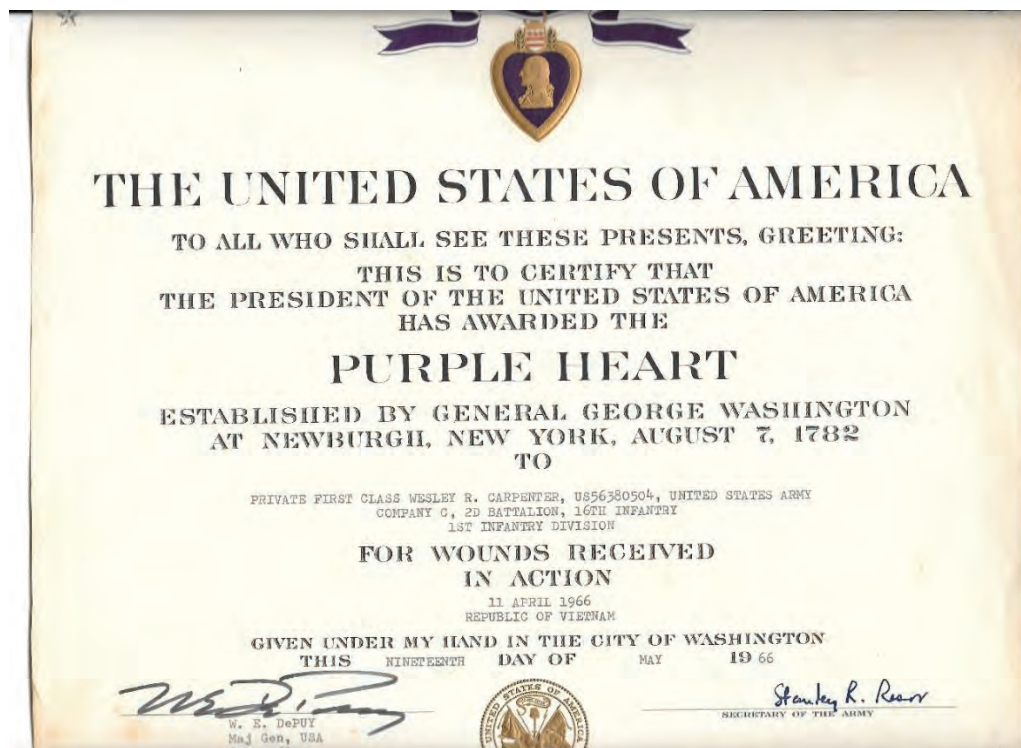
The packages under the tree won't be opened until the arrival of the Carpenter's Navy son, John, who is expected this week for a 14-day leave. He is an aviation mechanic at the Lemoore Naval Air Station near Fresno, Calif., and has been in the service almost a year.

Anxiously welcoming these two big brothers are Cherie

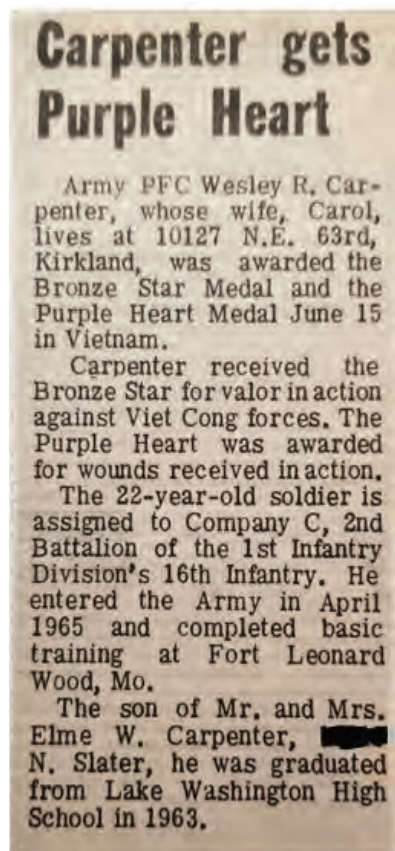
EAST SIDE JOURNAL, Page 9  
Wednesday, January 25, 1967

and Ricky as well as their married sister, Carol (Mrs. Tom Doucette). The proud mother, Ella Carpenter, is a long time Rose Hill resident. Other local relatives joining in this special January Christmas celebration will be the: J. S. Spencers, Bob Spencers, Eugene Johnson, Martin Johnsons and the Tom Doucettes.

## Purple Heart Medal Certificate:



## Article published in The Eastside Journal about the award of the Purple Heart.



## Wes Carpenter's Medals:



### The Bronze Star

The Bronze Star has the distinction of being an award for heroism or achievement, offered to both U.S. troops and qualifying members of foreign military organizations. The Bronze Star was created in 1944 and can be presented for both valor and/or meritorious service.



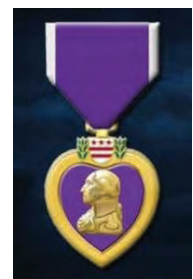
### The Army Commendation Medal



The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States other than General Officers who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service. Award may be made to a member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation who, after 1 June 1962, distinguishes himself by an act of heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious service which has been of mutual benefit to a friendly nation and the United States.

### The Purple Heart

This military medal awarded for wounds or loss of life in combat "as the result of an act of any opposing force" has its origins in the American Revolution. Originally created and presented as the Badge of Military Merit initiated by George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart was created in 1932 based on Washington's design and intent.



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## *Identity with Greater Kirkland Documentation*

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Wes Carpenter's maternal grandparents, Joseph and Florence Spencer, moved to Kirkland in 1925. Their daughter, Ella, was 6 years old. Ella married Elmer Carpenter and they lived in Houghton when Wes was born in 1943. They built their home in North Rose Hill in 1948 when Wes was 5 years old. Wes built his home on the same property in 1969 and still lives there today. Wes has lived in Kirkland his entire life, 77 years this December, 2020.



**Joseph and Florence Spencer  
Wes' grandparents  
Moved to Kirkland in 1925**



**Elmer and Ella Carpenter, Houghton Farm, 1947  
Wes Carpenter in dark shirt  
and 2 of his 4 siblings**



## Carpenter retires

Wes Carpenter (left) presents Bill Petter with trophy for state championship the Senior Babe Ruth team, sponsored by Petter's Bel-Kirk Motors, won in Camas. In front of the men are trophies for finishing on top of the Eastern Division of the Chinook Senior Babe Ruth League this year and the state championship trophy for 1969. The other two trophies are for second in the state and division champs last year. Carpenter, president of the Chinook League for two years and assistant state director for the Senior Babe Ruth this year, has announced his retirement from coaching.

Wes Carpenter (top right) as team Manger and his brother Rick is a team player win State Championship.

Page 4, EAST SIDE JOURNAL, Wednesday, July 23, 1969

# Bel-Kirk surprise tournament winner



State champs

Sponsored by Bel-Kirk motors of Kirkland the Senior Babe Ruth state champion team includes: Back row - Roger Miller, coach (left), Handy Allen, Lou Kelly, Doug Ewing, Joe Greenhaw, Marc Chamberlain, Wes Carpenter, manager, Middle

row - Rick Carpenter, Dean Winkler, Skip Frazier, Bob Murata. Front row - Mark Salgado, Brian Scott, Rod Strain, Mike Morin, Rich Dahl, Carl Berg, batboy.

Journal photo

## Funds sought for regional tourney

Bel-Kirk Motors came in through the back door to score the upset of the baseball season and win the Senior Babe Ruth state title.

While millions of eyes were glued on space achievements, Bel-Kirk turned the tables on D.V. Kiler for the crown, winning a doubleheader 4-5 and 1-2.

Reality and the cost of a \$2,500 trip to Mountainview, Calif., quickly joined thoughts of victory as they acquired the credentials but not the bankroll.

Manager Wes Carpenter and Roger Miller, coach, have appealed to the community for funds to get the ballplayers to the regional tournament.

Tyee won the title last year and had two weeks to raise funds for the trip. Bel-Kirk has three days.

The team is scheduled to depart tonight, Wednesday, to prepare for the first game Friday. Any financial aid should be forwarded to the Kirkland Baseball Association, and brought to The Journal office, 123 Lake St. S., no later than 4 p.m. today.

Defending champion Tyee dropped two straight, to D.V. Kiler and Bel-Kirk, after a 1-0 squeaker past the motorists Friday night.

In opening action, Kiler's Tim Holdaas and Bill Kimball teamed up to pitch a no-hitter to Rainier, an Oregon team. The duo fanned eight in the action.

Six o'clock brought Bel-Kirk and Tyee to the diamond for a pitchers' duel between Marc Chamberlain and Tyee's Don Bechtel.

Chamberlain allowed only three hits, not contributing to the score in the final inning. Steve Cain popped up behind the shortstop who booted it. Chamberlain walked Dick Stoecklin and Ken Martin.

On an attempted squeeze, Bechtel missed the ball leaving the runner floundering between third and home. A throw to pick off the runner hit Cain's shoulder, to bound into left field and allow the run.

Bechtel gave up one hit to Rick Carpenter, the second Bel-Kirk batter he faced.

In the tightcap, eight errors by Bel-Kirk didn't furnish Rainier enough running room to compensate for the 11 motorist hits.

Skip Frazier doubled in Rich Dahl in the bottom of the seventh for the winning run. Mike Morin drove in three runs with a double and single. Bob Murata, Skip Frazier, Rick Carpenter, and Dean Winkler each rapped two hits.

Double plays, Morin to Rod Strain and Mick DeWald to Morin highlighted Bel-Kirk defensive play.

The next day in the winner's bracket, Kiler's Kyle Christensen singled in Bill Kimball in the ninth inning to post the win.

Tyee pitcher Terry Schiffman was knocked off the mound by three runs in the third inning, yielding the hill to Greg Gressett, one of five players picked up after the season to beef up the Tyee nine.

Gressett balked in the tying run after Tyee hitting had pulled them ahead in the top of that frame.

Seven errors by Tyee contributed to the 5-4 loss.

Doug Ewing contained the Tyee nine in their second confrontation as his former Kangaroo teammate, Bechtel, who absorbed the loss. It was a first-ever win for Bel-Kirk over Tyee.

Frazier drove in Murata twice and Dean Winkler batted in Brian Scott twice for four Bel-Kirk runs.

A sudden death doubleheader with the Kiler nine began on a dismal note for Bel-Kirk. Trailing 4-0 in the bottom of the fifth inning, the motorists saved a five-run surprise for the visitors.

Strain opened up with a double to pave the way for singles by Murata and Frazier. Carpenter made first on an error by the third baseman and Scott and Winkler singled. Morin walked and Winkler charged the plate, scoring on a wild pitch.

Winkler threw out the tying run for Kiler at the plate in the top of the seventh.

With less than 24 hours rest, Ewing took the mound for Bel-Kirk in the championship game. He scattered five hits, allowing a single run to Kiler on Dick Jacobsen's solo homer in the third inning.

Bel-Kirk was first to break the scoring ice with Winkler drawing a walk, advancing on a single by Strain and scoring on Ewing's double to left center. Strain was ruled out for missing third.

Strain walked in the fifth to open the rally leading to the winning score. Murata got on through an error by the pitcher and both advanced on a wild pitch.

Carpenter singled in Strain to conclude the scoring. Both teams posted six hits with Bel-Kirk's error-free performance accounting, in part, for the win.

Kiler 101 000 0 - 4 6 2  
Rainier 000 000 0 - 0 0 4  
Holdaas, Kimball and O'Brien; Walters and Johnson.  
Bel-Kirk 000 000 0 - 0 1 2  
Tyee 000 000 1 - 1 3 1  
Chamberlain and Scott; Bechtel and Salgado

Rainier 140 004 1 - 11 7 3  
Bel-Kirk 250 400 1 - 12 11 8  
Pellham and Johnson; Greenhaw, DeWald and Scott

Tyee 100 000 300 - 4 7 7  
Kiler 003 000 101 - 5 10 1

Shiffman, Gressett and Hall; McSeventy, Knard and O'Brien  
Tyee 001 001 0 - 2 8 4  
Bel-Kirk 201 010 x - 4 5 2  
Bechtel and Salgado, Shelver, Hall, Ewing and Scott.

Kiler 120 010 0 - 4 9 2  
Bel-Kirk 000 050 x - 5 8 3

Holdaas, Kimball and O'Brien; Chamberlain and Scott  
Kiler 001 000 0 - 1 6 1  
Bel-Kirk 010 010 x - 2 6 0

McSeventy, Knard and O'Brien; Ewing and Scott, Dahl.

# East Side Journal

The East Side's Prize-Winning Pioneer Newspaper

Dec 10-1964

Vol. 50 No. 28 Kirkland, Wash. Dec. 10, 1964 10 Cents

## Armed robber slugs Houghton station man

Attempting to subdue an armed robber, a Houghton service station attendant Tuesday suffered a severely cut eyebrow but saved part of the intended loot.

On duty at the Rocket U-Save Oil Co. was Wes Carpenter, 20, a Rose Hill resident. His boss, station operator Bernard Desrosier, had left for breakfast about 9:15 a.m.

The station is on Lake Washington Blvd. near the Lake Washington Shipyard.

AFTER gassing up a customer's car, Carpenter said he started to go inside the station. Waiting behind a door was a man wearing a scarf over his face, recalled Carpenter. The masked robber stuck a gun, believed a 38-or-smaller-caliber pistol, in the attendant's back as he entered the station, Carpenter told The Journal.

"Gimme the money," Carpenter quoted the robber, who then walked with the station attendant to cash drawers at gas pumps outside the station.

On learning the drawers were locked, the armed man demanded to know, said Carpenter: "How do you make change?" With money not yet counted into a cash drawer, kept in the safe, the 20-year-

over inside the station as Carpenter whirled, he said.

MISSING was \$49.50, according to Carpenter. Left behind by the robber was \$25.50 in change, he added.

After coming to, Carpenter called Houghton police. Sgt. John Barnes said Tuesday the robbery is under investigation. Bleeding profusely from the cut eyebrow, Carpenter was taken to Overlake Hospital for treatment. He was back at work Tuesday afternoon.

Carpenter lives with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Carpenter, at [redacted] Slater.



WES CARPENTER  
Slugged by Gunman

old said he answered.

Carpenter then was forced to open the unlocked safe, a Journal newsman was told.

Taking a bag of bills and change out of the safe, Carpenter said he whirled and tried to clobber the robber with the sack of money. The robber slugged him first, though, apparently with the butt of the gun, Carpenter said.

Carpenter was knocked out, he said, and when he came to the robber had fled with bills which fell from the bag. Change from the bag had scattered all

### Robber Slugs 'Gas' Attendant

A robber slugged an attendant about 9:30 o'clock this morning and fled with money from a floor safe and oil at the Rocket-U-Save service station on Lake Washington Boulevard in Houghton.

Wesley Carpenter, 20, of Kirkland, was treated at Overlake Hospital for cuts above his right eye.

Houghton Police Chief Mike Falk said the robber struck Carpenter with his revolver when the attendant threw a money bag at him. The amount of the loot was not immediately determined.

### Lone Gunman Robs Houghton Service Station

A lone gunman robbed the Rocket U-Save service station in Houghton Tuesday morning.

The station was closed for business Tuesday morning.

Carpenter said Wesley Carpenter, 20, the attendant who was struck on the head by the handgun, apparently with the pistol with which he was armed.

THE BANDIT was a white man about 30, the newsman said. He was wearing a dark suit and was armed with a .38 Smith & Wesson handgun. The newsman said the robber fled with the loot.

Wes Carpenter's family land in North Rose Hill when it flooded. His mom, Ella Carpenter, is in the picture.

# High winds, torrential rains lash city

High winds and torrential rains apparently did little damage in the Kirkland-Redmond area Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Puget Power reported a sprinkling of power outages Monday morning. A tree across a power line at 78th Ave. N.E. and Juanita Drive left about 100 customers without electricity

until noon, according to a company spokesman.

Eighteen customers were without power for a short time at N.E. 106th and 106th N.E. and another outage affected about 20 customers at N.E. 100th at 122nd N.E.

A tree was reported down across lines just south of Duvall.

Jerry Fogarty, district manager for General Telephone, said that storm damage was remarkably light and was mostly in the outlying areas.

Robert Ely, chief of the Greater Kirkland Department of Fire Services, said his department was called out only twice during the storm - to help

pump out a flooded basement and to stand by a downed power line.

Little flooding was noted within Kirkland as the city's new storm drains took care of the rainwater.

"There was nothing of major consequence," said Art Knutson, director of public services. "There were a few flooded basements. Three years ago, with a storm like that, streets would have been flooded in downtown Kirkland and City Hall would have been flooded. When you can weather a storm like this you know your money has been well spent."

State highway crews worked around the clock pumping out a 50-foot wide lake just off Highway 405 near Par Mac Industrial Park. Water up to 10-feet deep was created when a 42-inch culvert was plugged by a slide on the slope of the highway. The water did not rise to the freeway.

Winds up to 60 miles per hour were clocked Monday morning on the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge. Traffic was snarled as the high winds sent the bridge swaying and rocking.



MRS. ELMER CARPENTER POINTS AT 'NEW LAKE'

Formed when culvert near 405 plugged

Journal photo

Wes Carpenter featured in a Then and Now... article, he is the one throwing the ball.

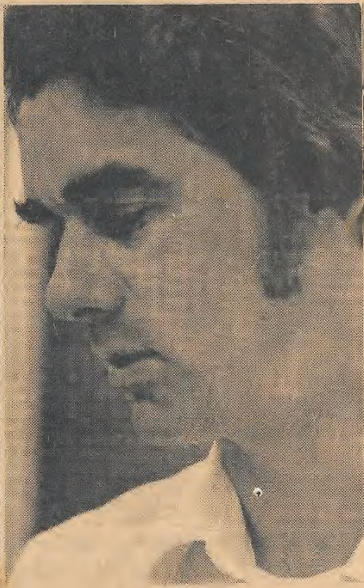


*Where are these Old Woody pitchers of Rose Hill Elementary School?*

## Inside stories



Wes Carpenter in 1952...



... and now

Whatever happened to...

promoters: well, the one in the middle is Wes Carpenter who remembers winning a baseball mitt and an autographed ball that day in 1952 or thereabouts.

His life has been eventful since then. Drafted in 1966, he served with the infantry in Vietnam, and was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism in May, 1966, the Purple Heart with Cluster in December the same year, and the Army Commendation Medal, after a battle in which all his friends were killed.

His mother says he would never wear the medals, and came back from Vietnam weighing only 120 pounds. He read the East Side Journal over in Vietnam. It was sent to him weekly after the reports of his heroism.

Both his children, Eddie (9) and Shelli (4) were born in the old Kirkland Hospital. He is now a salesman of Langendorf bread, and he and his wife went on holiday in Hawaii last year when he won the "Best Bread Salesman Contest in the State of Washington."

The others, from left to right, are Charles Primeau, David Vanderford who studied physical education at Central Washington State College, did two years in the Army at Ulm, when he traveled all around Europe, and came back to work for Safeway. He married a Mercer Island girl, Kathy Burke, and they have one child of 18 months, Heidi; Rich Hammon, who is thought to be an accountant; Gary Wildfang, who works for Pepsi-Cola in Wenatchee; and Bruce Gordon, who is "somewhere back East." On their right was Jerry Webster, now a sergeant with the Kirkland Police.

Over 200 phone calls and a dozen personal visits went into Stacy Marking's research to find out "Whatever happened to..." For the results, see page B15

Wes and Carol Carpenter's wedding at Kirkland's Trinity Lutheran Church.



Wes' wife, Carol Carpenter (formerly Wilson), at her first job at the Hair Tamer in Kingsgate (second from left).

Kingsgate  
Professional  
Center

THE HAIR TAMER

827-8797



FEATURING STYLISTS: L-R SHARLENE HOOVER, CAROL CARPENTER, MARY KNOWLES, THELMA YEOMAN, SAN DOPPS

FROSTING

\$15<sup>00</sup>

PERM

REG. \$20.00 NOW \$17<sup>50</sup>

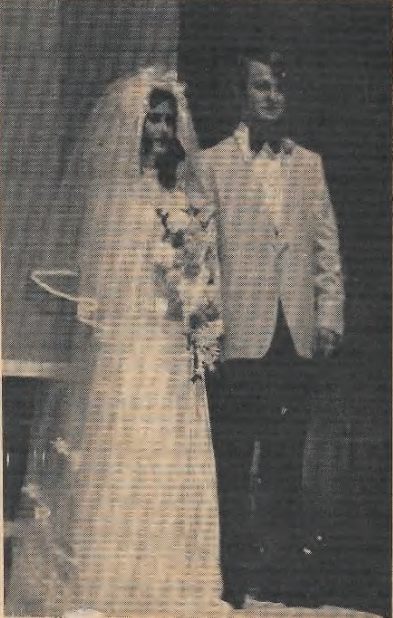
REG. \$17.50 NOW \$15<sup>00</sup>

12306 NE 144th KIRKLAND

HOURS: MON., TUES., FRI. & SAT 9 AM-5PM  
WED. & THUR. 9 AM-9 PM

Wes Carpenter's sister whom he gave away at her wedding.

EAST SIDE JOURNAL, Wed., Apr. 25, 1973 Page B2



Cheri Carpenter  
weds David King

Cheri Lynn Carpenter and David L. King were united in marriage at 7:30 p.m. March 17 in the Neighborhood Assembly of God Church, Bellevue.

The Rev. E.R. Scratch performed the double ring ceremony. Albert Verbarendse, soloist, was accompanied by Mrs. Don Watson.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Elmer W. Carpenter and the late Mr. Carpenter. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob C. King are parents of the bridegroom. Both families are of Kirkland.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her brother, Wesley Carpenter. She designed and made her floor-length white crepe gown with lace panels in front and bodice and sleeves edged in embroidered Alencon lace. Her train, appliqued with lace flowers, was held by a lavender flower headpiece.

Matron of honor for her sister was Mrs. Tom Doucette and maid of honor was Miss Elouise Herigstad. Bridesmaids were the bride's niece and the bridegroom's sister, Miss Lisa

Doucette and Miss Joann King. Camae Johnson was flower girl.

Best man was Don Millard and ushers were Walter and Wesley King, brothers of the bridegroom, and Bob Watson. John and Rick Carpenter were candlelighters and ushers. Ringbearer was Eddy Carpenter.

The reception was held at the church. The eight-tiered wedding cake and two three-tiered cakes, made by the bride's mother, were served by Mrs. Wesley Carpenter and Mrs. Eugene Johnson.

Also assisting at the reception were grandmothers Mrs. J.S. Spencer and Mrs. Anna Verbarendse, the Mmes. Rick Carpenter, Jack Spencer, Robert Spencer, and Miss Bobbisue Spencer and Miss Nancy Spencer.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. Both are 1972 graduates of Lake Washington High School. Mr. King is employed with Munson's Thriftway.

Mr. and Mrs. David L. King

Wes's mom, Ella, spawned a new *Rhododendron* species in her Kirkland garden. It was named the Ella Carpenter *Rhododendron*. The family would be honored if we could have one planted in a Kirkland Park.

**JARS v60n1 - American Rhododendron Society Plant Registry**

<https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JARS/v60n1/v60n1-registry.htm>



**R. 'Ella Carpenter'**

**(r) 'Ella Carpenter':** Elepidote rhododendron: Parentage unknown. H: Unknown; G (1970): Ella Carpenter, Kirkland, WA; N and I (2005): Griswold Nursery, Kirkland, WA; REG (2005): Linda Malland, Kirkland, WA. Fls 5/lax truss, broadly funnel-shaped, c 2" (50mm) long x c 2.5" (65mm) wide, with 5-6 wavy-edged lobes. Color vivid reddish orange (33A) in bud, opening light greenish yellow (4B) throughout with vivid orange (28B) spotting on three dorsal lobes. Truss 3.5" (90mm) high x 3.5" (90mm) wide. Lvs held 3 years, 4" x 2" (100 x 50mm), elliptic, broadly acute apex, flat margins; moderate olive green (137B) above; hairless. Shrub 5' (1.5m) high x 5' (1.5m) wide; upright habit. Plant hardy to at least 0F (-18C). May.



Wes Carpenter at his Kirkland home with wife Carol, grandson Conner, and daughter Shelli.

PFC WESLEY CARPENTER  
United States Army

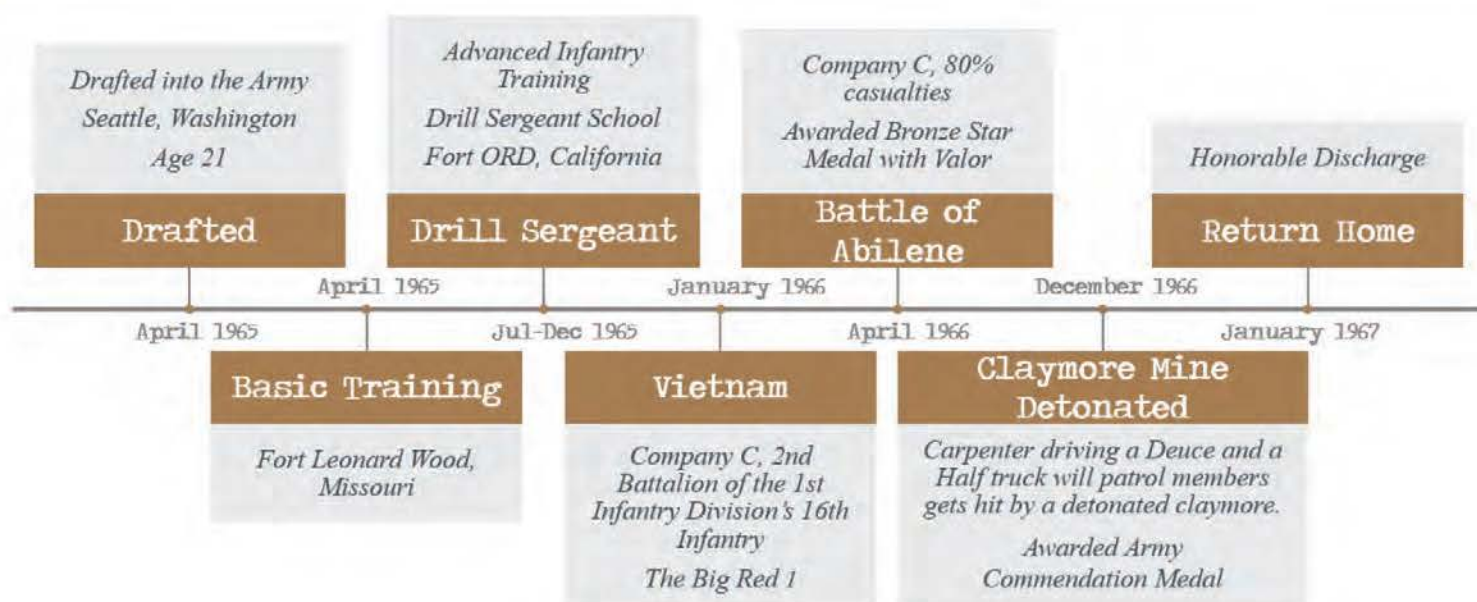
Vietnam Deployment  
Jan. 1966 - Jan. 1967



## Pfc. Wesley Carpenter

C Company, 2nd Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division's 16th Infantry

The Big Red 1, Rangers Ready Now, Mud Soldiers

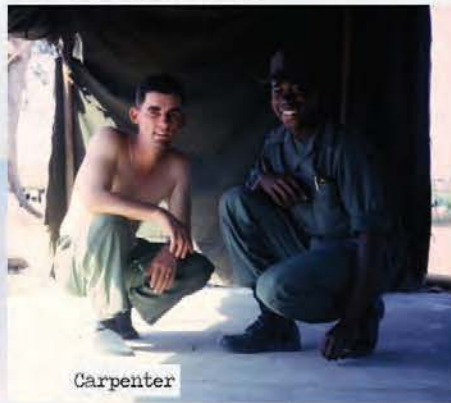


## Drill Sergeant School Fort ORD, California



I was given a choice, ship off to Korea or become a Drill Sergeant. I studied hard to pass that test. As Assistant Drill Sergeant I coached my squad to many drill competition wins. I had them singing marching cadences around the Fort and hauling ass crawling under the wire and through the courses. Then the orders came, the original deal was off. I was being shipped to Vietnam.

## Deployed to Vietnam



Carpenter



Carpenter



Carpenter



Carpenter

1966









## Bob Hope Entertains the Troops



(Among the first to arrive at the battleground where a Viet-Cong battalion mauled an outnumbered company of United States 1st Division infantrymen was an Associated Press photographer, Rick Merron. Here is his report.)

By RICK MERRON  
Associated Press

RINH GIA, Vietnam, April 12. — "It was terrible," Pfc. Ronald Haley said, as he stood in the bay clearing blasted from the jungle so that the dead and wounded could be evacuated.

"I've never heard such screaming in my life. Many of the wounded were yelling for their mothers. Some of the kids were calling for God. For some reason, I remember one guy yelling for Gloria," Haley said.

Haley, of Ukiah, Calif., had a week's stubble on his chin. He was dirty and unkempt after his unit had been in the jungles 30 miles east of Saigon for two weeks searching for the Viet-Cong. The infantrymen found them yesterday afternoon and in the bitter fight the G. I.'s took heavy casualties—perhaps a third or more of the company killed or wounded.

Many of the dead wore gas masks, dooned after a Viet-Cong bullet ripped into a tear-gas grenade on a United States soldier's belt. The pungent gas exploded across the American lines.

LETTERS STUCK OUT of the pockets of some of the dead. Weapons and equipment were strewn about. Because of the density of the jungle, helicopters were unable to take out the casualties until openings were blasted in the forest.

The company commander, Capt. William Nolen of Florence, S. C., described how the battle involving his "Big Red One" first developed. He was wounded twice.

The company, of 175 men, part of the 2nd Battalion, 16th Regiment, was moving through the deep jungles northeast of Rinh Gia on a routine patrol looking for a large Viet-Cong force. At noon sniper fire began. "After a while," Nolen said, "heavy fire started coming in. We moved into a perimeter. In this first part of the fight that lasted from 45 minutes to an hour, we took quite a few casualties."

# Battle of Abilene April 11-12 1966

"THE VIET-CONG WITHDREW" and we called in artillery fire. An Air Force gun on September 11 came over and dropped a ladder. They landed the about a dozen of our soldiers.

The soldiers we started searching the line at around. There were bodies everywhere in heavy searchlight. We were successful.

As the fighting broke down, we had to fight in close and what to fight today. Haley says.

The Viet-Cong were everywhere. An excellent illustration of the enemy being a head-on explosion was involved.

First Lt. Robert Adams of Nashville, Tenn., and others kept firing from the line.

"One of my boys picked up a grenade and charged into the line. He was killed. I saw another lieutenant running from tree to tree looking for Viet-Cong positions. He was his cousin from home he was finally killed," Adams said.

AT TIMES THE AMERICANS fought the enemy hand to hand.

Major Gen. William F. DePue, commander of the 1st Division, said: "I began a second stage where American were actually shooting with the Viet-Cong."

And eventually Viet-Cong forces were falling off behind the enemy fringe. Living Americans wounded and dragging off their two dead and wounded.

After the fighting did really stop. They held their ground against devastating fire. (Journalist said it is never because of the closeness of the fight.)

Staff Sgt. Lewis Powers of Olympia, Wash., who arrived in the area early today, said:

"I went in with the first soldiers. We found the Viet-Cong command post. There were bunkers and trenches all around. While I was searching one bunker a Viet-Cong soldier a light machine and carrying a weapon came walking down. I shot him on the spot. I heard his weapon go off once, but it wasn't firing back the way that got killed."



THIS WAS ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE THE BATTLE OF ABILENE. PFC. HALEY SAT BESIDE BAGS HOLDING BODIES OF COMRADES SLAIN IN FIGHT NEAR RINH GIA.

## Screams of the Wounded Recalled by G.I. Survivor

### Pfc. Carpenter: Local soldier one of two not hurt in V.C. ambush

By CHARLES G. MORGAN  
Company was decimated by a Viet Cong ambush on April 12. The action took place about 30 miles east of Saigon.

By A JOURNIST in his wife Carol, Capt. Haley and his personal file. Haley said that the Viet Cong hit them from all sides after they had evacuated from positions of 37 miles when this day.

It is almost impossible to find the battle or better picture from the jungle and the ground. The Viet Cong hit them from all sides after they had evacuated from positions of 37 miles when this day.

Company commander with Haley was killed in the battle. Haley was one of the few who survived the battle.

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PFC. CARPENTER  
Survived Viet Cong Ambush

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## Battle of Abilene - Excerpts from a letter home ...

Now honey I will tell you what happened

Well we

got a little got a little sniper fire

the V.C. opened up on us from every side we didn't have a chance they had .50 caliber machine guns on 4 sides of us

in real thick jungle we cleared a small hole and a helicopter could lower a rope down and get the wounded.

my gun was shot right out of my hands

I moved back to the middle of the people

but they were all dead.

I started moving from man  
to man it was so dark

this one man had 5  
little children and  
I worked I worked on him for hours

then I heard a  
Lieutenant yelling for help  
Lieutenant Kroah

was shot 5 times  
in the back and  
once in the shoulder  
and 1 in the leg.

and gave him mouth to  
mouth but he  
died in my arms

I used any  
thing I could grab to  
stop the bleeding

all the wounded men ~~men~~  
were yelling for water ~~water~~

I crawled to as many ~~as many~~  
as I could find and I ~~gave~~  
gave the water I had ~~I had~~  
found off of dead men's canteens  
Canteens

Then I grabbed ~~a~~  
a radio ~~a~~ a radio and was keeping

in contact with B Company ~~B~~  
and the artillery ~~artillery~~

Out of 150 men ~~men~~  
35 dead 35 dead, 67 wounded

In my platoon of ~~two~~ ~~that of~~  
37 37 there was only ~~only~~ ~~the~~  
2 ~~people~~ 2 people unhurt and ~~and~~  
able able to walk it was ~~was~~  
me ~~and~~ me and new man Ed Morgan

Now you tell mom ~~I~~ Mom  
and e and everyone I am ~~on~~  
All right. all right.

I love you and I love you and  
we will be coming home to you. me &  
you. I love you  
x x x



1966



## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, FEBRUARY 4, 1944  
HAS AWARDED

### THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

TO

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERT A. CARPENTER, CARPENTER, UNITED STATES ARMY

FOR  
HEROISM IN GROUND COMBAT

IN THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE OF ILLEGAL ACTS

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON  
THIS 21ST DAY OF MAY 1944

*W.D. Taft*  
U.S. SENATOR



*Stanley R. Reame*  
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



BRONZE STAR



PURPLE HEART



## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:  
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
HAS AWARDED THE

### PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON  
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782  
TO

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERT A. CARPENTER, CARPENTER, UNITED STATES ARMY  
COMPANY B, 40 BATTALION, 100TH INFANTRY  
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED  
IN ACTION

21 APRIL 1956

WOUNDED BY FLAMING

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON  
THIS 21ST DAY OF MAY 1956

*W.D. Taft*  
U.S. SENATOR



*Stanley R. Reame*  
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

In Vietnam action:

## Bronze Medal for heroism awarded Kirkland soldier

Pfc. Wesley (Wes) Carpenter of Kirkland received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations in Vietnam.

Private First Class Carpenter also won a Purple Heart for injuries inflicted during combat in Vietnam, his mother reported. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Carpenter, [redacted] Rose Hill. His wife Carol lives in Houghton.

A first hand report of Carpenter's experience, for which he won the Bronze Medal, was published in a letter to his mother published in The Journal May 5. Private First Class Carpenter was in platoon of 37 men when his company was decimated by a Viet Cong ambush on April 12.

His heroism was described in an Army notice of his having received the Bronze Medal. The

description read, as follows:

"On this date, his (Carpenter's) company was engaged in fierce combat with an estimated Viet Cong battalion. During the initial encounter, Private First Class Carpenter laid down a base of fire in his assigned sector. He continued placing a steady and deadly stream of accurate fire into the Viet Cong position until his weapon was shot from his hand. At this time he was so seriously wounded that he could no longer hold his weapon.

"Looking around his position, he saw many other wounded laying about him. Though not a trained medical aidman, he rendered first aid in a most professional manner. Working under fire and without adequate bandage, he improvised dressings to stop the bleeding. His prompt action saved the lives of many comrades who would

have bled to death if left unattended. After treating the wounded, he did what he could to aid and comfort the men in hope of easing some of the pain. He constantly reassured the men that help was on the way.

"While moving among the patients, he found an unmanned radio which he picked up and moved to a central location. For the remainder of the night he rendered periodic reports to the acting company commander. Throughout the action he was constantly busy moving among his patients and monitoring the radio.

"Private First Class Carpenter's outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the 1st Infantry Division and the United States Army."



## Claymore mine detonated under truck

PFC Carpenter was driving a Deuce and a half truck which was carrying an ambush patrol of ARVN soldiers and US army men on the return to base camp. Suddenly a large claymore mine was detonated beside the road and several injuries were sustained among the patrol members. The vehicle was stopped with four of its ten tires flat and the brake lines severed. Carpenter dismounted exposing himself to sniper fire as he moved to the rear of the vehicle to check on the men. He returned to the cab and hauled ass down the road as fast as he could with no brakes, downshifting on corners. He was driving, shifting, and yelling over the radio. I got on the radio to the camp telling them I had wounded men.



22 December

1966

## Claymore mine detonated under truck

Get all the medics you can find and a Medivac ready as there are serious injuries including a guy that's lost a leg. The road to the camp was a one lane dike over a rice paddy. I told them over the radio I had no brakes and won't be stopping until I get to the medical tent. "Leave the gate open and get the hell out of the way." An officer had jumped into his Jeep to head out to help us but we met up on the one lane dike. With no brakes I had to run him off the road. He was none to happy to be taking a bath in the rice swamp. When I got to the medics I threw it in low gear and turned the key off. The medics rushed to the wounded and I got out and just sat down on the step of the Deuce with blood on my face from a wound to the nose I don't recall getting. I got a letter some time later from the guy who lost his leg thanking me for saving his life. Doctors told him if I'd taken any longer getting him to the medics he would have died.



22 December 1966

# Commendation Medal



## Army cites Carpenter for 'valor'

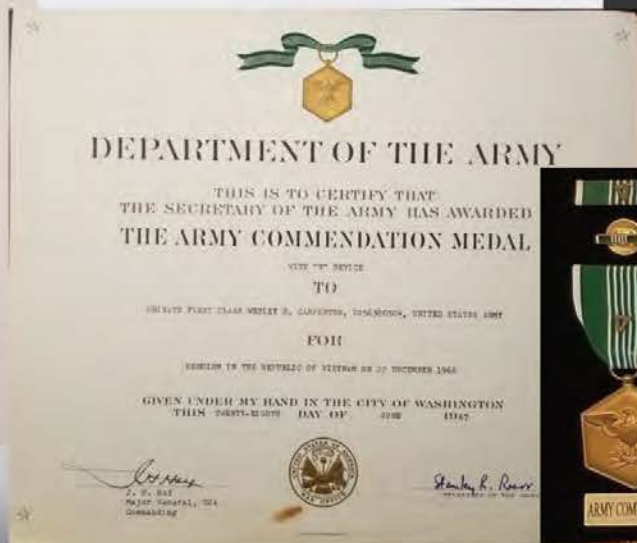
Wesley Carpenter, who has been out of the Army since January, recently received an Army Commendation Medal with "V" (for valor) Device for Heroism.

The incident for which Carpenter was cited occurred Dec. 22, 1966 in Vietnam and was recounted with the citation.

Carpenter was driving an army truck carrying an ambush patrol on return to base camp when a mine was detonated along the road. Several casualties were sustained among patrol members and the vehicle was stopped with five of its six tires flat.

Mt. Carpenter dismounted and exposed himself to sniper fire as he moved to the rear of the vehicle to administer first aid to casualties. After treating wounded and making repairs he could to truck, Carpenter returned to cab and restarted truck. In spite of extensive damage he drove it several miles to nearest aid station.

According to the Army citation, Carpenter's courage was directly responsible for saving the lives of several men. The commendation medal was given by the direction of the Secretary of the Army.



22 December 1966

Medal Ceremony



# Saigon



Saigon







# Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

*This is to certify that*

CARPENTER WESLEY R. [REDACTED] PFC USAH

*was Honorably Discharged from the*

## United States Army

*on the 12TH day of APRIL 1971 This certificate is awarded  
as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service*

*Louis J. Frost*  
LOUIS J. FROST  
BRIGADIER GENERAL, USA

CARPENTER



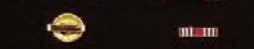
BRONZE STAR



ARMY COMMENDATION



NATIONAL DEFENSE



PURPLE HEART



VIETNAM SERVICE

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN



Sunset Final

Largest daily and Sunday circulation in Washington

Today's news today

# The Seattle Times

26 PAGES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1973

10¢

## Vietnam peace agreement signed



**RAIN**  
Weather Service forecast: Increasing chance of rain tonight. Periods of rain tomorrow, light, mid-40s. For tonight, report 30s, tomorrow, wind 15 to 25 m. p. & chance of rain 70% tonight, 20% tomorrow. Airport high yesterday, 45, low 35, tonight, 35. (Report A 3h max., all report B 2.)

## U. S. won't get involved again—Kissinger

**WASHINGTON — (AP) —** Henry Kissinger has reportedly assured members of Congress that the United States will not get embroiled in Vietnam again. It fighting flares up after the cease-fire.

He also said about 45 senators that Congress will be consulted before any decision on United States aid to help rebuild North Vietnam, according to sensitive sources, after a meeting with Kissinger yesterday.

Kissinger, President Nixon's foreign-policy adviser and chief negotiator in the Paris peace talks, briefed senators on the terms of the Vietnam settlement in a rare Capitol Hill appearance.

Sources said that Kissinger, when asked about American aid to North Vietnam, responded that the matter is to be decided by the President but noted that the United States has always helped past war-torn states and will be carefully watching how the peace agreement is followed.

The Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, asked the comments of other senators when he said "Never, never, never again will I want to see our country military involved in another costly, protracted war."

After Kissinger's briefing, Sen. Frank Church, Idaho Democrat, and Clifford Case, New Jersey Republican, introduced legislation to bar future American military aid to Vietnam without congressional consent.

Meanwhile, a Pentagon spokesman left open the possibility that American warplanes might continue to bomb targets in Laos and Cambodia under certain conditions after the cease-fire agreement goes into effect in North and South Vietnam.

The spokesman did not say United States planes would carry out such attacks, but he reportedly declined to go beyond statements Wednesday by Kissinger which appeared to leave the situation in Laos and Cambodia purposely vague with efforts to prevent the U.S. to extend the cease-fire to those countries.



## Nation ready to observe 'moment of thanksgiving'



### Battle of Abilene - A letter home (full text)

Now honey I will tell you what happened to our Company. We have 150 men in a Company. We were split from B and A Company for one day. Well we got a little sniper fire here and there. And we got one man kill and 11 wounded we were in real thick jungle we cleared a small hole and a helicopter could lower a rope down and get the wounded. Just as the copter took off with the wounded the V.C. open up on us from every side we didn't have a chance they had .50 caliber machine guns on 4 side of us and a whole bunch of 60 cal. machine guns they had grenade and mortars and every thing. We fought as much as we could my gun was shot right out of my hands and I moved back to the middles of the people but they were all dead. I reached to grab another rifle and a tree fell on me. I thought I was a goner. I could not move. And men were yelling and dying all over after the firing had stop they were coming in to kill us all but our artillery came down on us so they ran off with many of our weapons and gear, there were a few men still able to move around so I yelled to someone to get the tree off my back and he did. It took about 15 min. for the feeling to get back in my legs and then I started moving from man to man it was so dark by then I couldn't see to much but I could hear the yelling for help. I crawled to as many men as I could and saved a lot of them from bleeding to death. This one man had 5 little children and I worked on him for hours and gave him mouth to mouth but he died in my arms then I heard a lieutenant yelling for help he was from the other platoon but I went to him. He was shot 5 times in the back and once in the shoulder and 1 in the leg. The man was bleeding so bad I used any thing I could grab to stop the bleeding but I couldn't stop it for a while until I worked on him for hours until I did. We hadn't had water for a long time and all the wounded men were yelling for water. I crawled to as many as I could find and gave the water I had found off of dead men canteens. Then I grab a radio and was keeping in contact with B Company and the artillery telling them how to get to us. B Company had walked all day and now had to walk 1000 meter at night in the jungle and that's dam near impossible. I then went back to the lieutenant and carried him to where the other men were still living and could be able to fight. In the morning B Co. came with water and doctor all our doctor were shot or wounded. I saved so many lives but was unable to save as many as I wanted to. Out of 150 men 35 dead 67 and about the rest of us we left with a few nicks here and there. In my platoon of 37 there was only 2 people unhurt and able to walk it was me and new man Ed Morgan. We had 9 killed and all the rest were all wounded. Leroy will be all right he just got a bullet in the leg and it didn't hit the bone thank God. Now you tell mom and every one I am all right. So please take care of yourself now because I love you and will be coming home to you. I love you.

-Wesley Carpenter

A note about this presentation: My name is Shelli and I am the proud daughter of Wesley Carpenter. The pictures in this presentation were taken by my dad during his deployment in Vietnam and the articles were saved by my mom who was waiting for him to return home. My dad never talked much about his time in Vietnam but I could tell it weighed heavy on him. He mostly said too many guys died and they were too young. His medals hang in the house and though they have meaning he doesn't see his actions for which he got the Bronze Star or the Commendation Medal as anything more than doing everything he could to save as many of those men as he could. I believe those men that did make it out were lucky to have my dad there to help them. He is brave, smart and resourceful but he'll tell you he's just an average guy. To me he is extraordinary. I bet anyone that remembers my dad in Vietnam will have nothing but great things to say about him. Dad returned home from Vietnam and had a son and a daughter. He worked hard to make an honest living and create a great life for his family. I learned how to be strong, self-sufficient, how to enjoy life, and how to tell a joke from my dad. His grandson thinks the world of him. I encourage anyone that remembers my dad or is interested in meeting a great man to reach out to him. He'll have you laughing in no time.

I would like to thank everyone that was involved with the making of The Last Full Measure, the veterans, their families, Todd Robinson, the actors and the film industry. It is because of this movie that I now know that my dad is even more extraordinary than I already knew.

I created this presentation to honor my dad and all that served in Vietnam. I am thankful to those that served with him as you are the reason he made it home. To the families that their son, brother, father, husband, grandfather didn't make it home, I send you my heartfelt condolences. To those that are still with us, I send you my love. With much gratitude, a proud daughter of a great man.

August 2020

A Veterans Day thank you from Wes' grandson.

thankyou for all you did to  
serve our country. byConner  
to grandpa I love you



## RESOLUTION R-5468

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND INDCUTING WES CARPENTER INTO THE KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS.

1 WHEREAS, in 1988 the City Council passed Ordinance  
2 3096 which established the Plaza of Champions program and  
3 created criteria for selection of persons and organized groups of  
4 persons who have made outstanding contributions to the  
5 Kirkland community, to be permanently honored by the  
6 community and the City of Kirkland and;

7  
8 WHEREAS, in 2001 the City Council passed Ordinance  
9 3794 which established that nominations for the Plaza of  
10 Champions will be reviewed by the Park Board, whose  
11 recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, at their regular meeting on January 13, 2021  
14 the Park Board reviewed the nomination of Wes Carpenter and  
15 determined that the nomination satisfied the criteria established  
16 for the Kirkland Plaza of Champions; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, Wes Carpenter was born at the Kirkland  
19 Hospital on December 29, 1943 and has been a lifelong Kirkland  
20 resident, working and raising his family in the City and  
21 contributing to the Kirkland community in many ways, including  
22 leading the Bel-Kirk Motors Babe Ruth baseball team to two  
23 state championships in the late 1960's; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, Wes Carpenter was twice awarded significant  
26 medals by the United States Army for his courageous and  
27 selfless service as a soldier in the Vietnam War, including  
28 receiving the Bronze Star with Valor for his actions during a  
29 battle where the Army stated "His prompt actions saved the lives  
30 of many comrades, who would have bled to death if left  
31 unattended," and receiving the Army Commendation Medal for  
32 driving his unit to safety in a truck disabled by a roadside mine  
33 where the Army stated "the outstanding courage displayed was  
34 directly responsible for saving the lives of several men"; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, the City Council has received from the Park  
37 Board a written report and recommendation on the nomination  
38 of Wes Carpenter; and  
39

40 WHEREAS, in a public meeting the City Council considered  
41 the written report and recommendation of the Park Board; and  
42

43  
44 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the  
45 City of Kirkland as follows:  
46

47 Section 1. For his exceptional contributions and service to  
48 both to the Kirkland community and the United States Army,  
49 Wes Carpenter is hereby inducted into the Kirkland Plaza of  
50 Champions.  
51

52 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in  
53 open meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.  
54

55 Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
56 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathi Anderson, City Clerk