Private First-Class Thomas J. Ontiveros

1946 – 1966 KIA

Service # 19808669

United States Army – Vietnam War

Thomas J. Ontiveros was born in Santa Maria, California on March 23, 1946. He enlisted in the United States Army and began his tour on January 4, 1966. Ontiveros had the rank of Private First Class with his military occupation or specialty (MOS) as Infantry Direct Fire Crewman. He was attached to 25th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry, B Company. During his service in the Vietnam War, Army Private First Class Ontiveros experienced a traumatic event which untimely resulted in loss of life on September 28, 1966. Recorded circumstances: Died through hostile action - small arms fire. Incident location: South Vietnam, Kon Tum Province. He is buried at the Santa Maria District Cemetery in Santa Maria, CA.

Decorations and Awards:

- Bronze Star
- Purple Heart
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Marksmanship Badge
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Army Presidential Unit Citation
- Vietnam Gallantry Cross

Thomas is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. His name is inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 11e, Line 27.

Thomas was a relative of the owner (Joe Ontiveros) of the Joe's Place restaurants located in Paso Robles (2) and Templeton, CA.