Petty Officer First Class

Milford Marvin Tognazzini

1934 – 1969 KIA

Service # 573408337

United States Navy – Vietnam

Milford Marvin Tognazzini is on the Vietnam Wall at Panel 20w, Line 111

Memorialized at the Seabee Memorial, just outside the gates of Arlington Cemetery

Milford Marvin Tognazzini was born in Santa Maria, CA on May 7, 1934 and he joined the Armed Forces while living in Santa Maria. He served with the U.S. Army in Korea and later rejoined the Army. He joined the Navy Seabees late in 1968 and served as a Construction Mechanic. He was in his third tour of duty with the U.S. Armed Services. On August 7, 1969, while serving with "A" Company, MCB-11, at Landing Zone Nancy, in the Republic of South Vietnam, he and three other Seabees responded to a call for assistance by an Army motor platoon firing in support of a friendly unit engaged with the enemy. When fire broke out in one of the mortar pits and began to spread rapidly to a large amount of ammunition stored nearby, the men, lead by CM1 Milford Tognazzini, jumped into a water truck and drove to the burning pit. Simultaneous to this event, an armored personnel carrier, loaded with more ammunition, also caught fire. While attempting to extinguish the burning vehicle, Tognazzini was mortally wounded by exploding ammunition and the three others were wounded. The Army put Milford Tognazzini in for the Soldier Medal, which he received posthumously. MCB-11 was decommissioned a short time later and the men's paperwork, which included proof of their wounds, was lost for thirty years in the Archives at Port Hueneme. The men, including Milford Tognazzini were finally honored with the Purple Heart on Memorial Day 2001.