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Ben Willis Howell

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Ben W. Howell

By Jonathan O'Brien and Davis Shaw

U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Ben Willis Howell was born in Tennille, Georgia in Washington County on July 5, 1931. Records from HonorStates.org show that Sgt. First Class Howell enlisted in the United States Army. According to the *Union-Recorder*, at the time of his death he had already served 18 years, and was described as a “career soldier.”



On the home front Howell married Carolyn Garrett, of Milledgeville. They had three children: “one son, Ben Keith; two daughters, Kathy Elizabeth and Gwynell Ann,” according to the *Union-Recorder*. Records show the family lived at 244 Park Ave. Milledgeville, Ga 31061.

During his final tour of duty in Vietnam, which began on April 13, 1968, Howell suffered a “traumatic event.” Records show he was killed by hostile small arms fire while in Quang Tri Province. He died on May 28, 1968.

His body would not return to his hometown of Milledgeville for burial until mid-June. A front page article in the *Union-Recorder*, reported the funeral for Howell was held at 4 p.m. on Monday, June 10 in the Church of the First Assembly of God on Irwinton Road. Howell

was given "full military honors" during a graveside service at the Zeeta Cemetery in Tennille. The funeral was presided over by the Rev. D.W. Gatlyn and Rev. Billy R. Jones.

In addition to his wife and three children, Howell was survived by his father, Oscar Howell of Dublin, along with his brothers -- M.S. Howell of Tennille, Remus Howell of Swainsboro, and Melvin Howell of Sandersville -- and his five sisters: Mrs. Velvin Smith of Tennille, Mrs. Margaret West of Savannah, Mrs. W.O. Bland of Brunswick, Mrs. J.D. Walker of Longview, Texas, and Mrs. Paul Throade of California.

WW I		WW II		KOREA		VIET NAM JUL 22 1968		ORIGINAL	
1. NAME OF DECEASED - LAST - FIRST - MIDDLE (Print or Type) Howell, Ben Willis				14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Tennille, Georgia					
2. SERVICE NUMBER RA14449291		3. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NUMBER		IMPORTANT - Item 18 on reverse side must be completed. See attached instructions and complete and submit both copies.					
4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year) 21 December 1962		5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year)		15. This application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the U. S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Armies of the Civil War or for an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recoverable deceased member. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for proper placement at the grave or memorial plot at no expense to the Government.					
6. STATE Georgia		7. DECORATIONS Purple Heart		NAME OF APPLICANT (Print or Type) Carolyn Howell		RELATIONSHIP Widow			
8. GRADE OR RANK SFC	9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION RA, Trp A, 3d Sqdr, 5th Cav 9th Inf Div			ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Street address, City and State) 244 Park Ave Milledgeville, Ga 31061					
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year) 5 July 1931		11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year) 28 May 1968		SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>Carolyn E. Howell</i>		DATE 7-12-68			
12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one)		13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED		16. FREIGHT STATION Macon Ga.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATIN CROSS (Christian)	<input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID (Hebrew)	<input type="checkbox"/> NO EMBLEM	<input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE	<input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER	<input type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER	17. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE OR MARKER C. W. Head		
DO NOT WRITE HERE				ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City and State) 700 Miller Field Rd. S. Macon GA. 31201		I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY.			
FOR VERIFICATION 19 JUL 1968		ORDERED 16 AUG 1968		SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE <i>Charles W. Head</i>					
B/L 8019		CONTRACTOR Shieldow Bronze 378 Kingwood, West Virginia							
<i>Sfc Trp A 5 Cav 9 Inf div / Vietnam PH</i>									
DD FORM 1330, 1 NOV 62		NO		EDITION OF 1 DEC 61 MAY BE USED.		APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER		Form Approved Budget Bureau No. 22-R205	

Application for headstone from Ancestry.com

Funeral Held For Victim Of Viet Nam War

Funeral services for SFC Ben W. Howell, 36-year-old victim of the Vietnam War, were held at 4 p.m. Monday in the church of the First Assembly of God on Irwin-ton Road, with full mili-tary honors accorded at the graveside.

The Rev. Billy R. Jones and the Rev. D.W. Gat-lyn officiated and burial was in Zeeta Cemetery in Tennille.

SFC Howell, a career soldier had been in the United States Army 18 years. He was killed in action May 28 and his body reached Milledge-ville last Saturday.

The Howell family has lived at 244 Park Ave. in Hardwick for some years past, having moved here from Tennille.

Survivors include his wife, the former Carolyn Garrett of Milledgeville; one son, Ben Keith; two daughters, Kathy Eliza-beth and Gwynell Ann; his father, Oscar Howell of Dublin; three brothers, M.S. Howell of Tennille, Remus Howell of Swains-boro and Melvin Howell of Sandersville; five sis-ters, Mrs. Velvin Smith of Tennille, Mrs. Mar-garet West of Savannah, Mrs. W.O. Bland of Brunswick, Mrs. J.D. Walker of Long View, Texas and Mrs. Paul Throade of California.

Union-Recorder June 13, 1968.



Courtesy: Wall of Faces (Curator's Note: Upon further research, this photo is not Ben Howell. This is an image of Jim Robertson (Leithoff), who served with Ben Howell in Germany) Evan Leavitt

https://www.google.com/search?q=ben+willis+howell+milledgeville&client=safari&rls=en&ei=omCVYK-JKdOMwbkP0qutkAo&oq=ben+willis+howell+milledgeville&gs_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAMyBQghEKABOggIABCwAxDNAjoFCCEQqwI6BwghEAoQoAFQ_DxY0k1ggk9oAXAAeACAAdgBiAGyEpIBBjAuMTAuNJgBAKABAaoBB2d3cy13aXrIAQHAAQE&scient=gws-wiz&ved=0ahUKEwiv4qiO9bfwAhVTRjABHdJVC6IQ4dUDCA0&uact=5

<http://theusgenweb.org/ga/baldwin/vietnam.html>