



1LT ROBERT T. RICE
Class of 1969
Enshrined 2016



Robert Rice was the Xavier Musketeer mascot during the 1968-69 school year, a member of the Xavier Young Republican Club and the Pershing Rifles (PR). He was awarded "The Presidents' Trophy" and "2 x Superior Cadet Decoration." Bob was a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned Regular Army, Infantry. Bob was the epitome of XU. He was loyal, dedicated, and extremely professional. In short, no pun intended, Bob was XU. He even married the chair of the History Department, Doctor Bourgeois's daughter.

As a boy, Bob was an Alter Server at Saint Teresa, Springfield, Ohio and encouraged others to be Alter Servers. He was a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Explorer Scout earning the Ad Altare Dei emblem for service to his Church. His enthusiasm was responsible for attracting other boys to the scouting program.

Bob was the manager of the football and basketball teams at Catholic Central High School in Springfield. His spirit and enthusiasm proved motivational to many of the bigger boys and were probably responsible for some of the victories which they achieved. Bob was always proud of "his" teams.

Upon graduation and commissioning, 2LT Rice completed the Officer Basic Infantry Course at Ft. Benning, GA. and was assigned to Company B, 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam.

At approximately 6:50pm on August 8th 1970, the company was in a night defensive perimeter on Landing Zone Tarzan, located approximately 25 miles southwest of An Khe. The enemy unleashed a mortar attack from a concealed position in the mountain range approximately 2,000 meters to the west of the LZ. 1LT Rice, while directing return fire and ensuring the safety of all his Soldiers, was mortally wounded.

1LT Rice's Company Commander, in writing about Bob stated: "Robert had proven himself to be a man of courage and conviction; a true leader of men. He was well liked by all of us, especially the members of his platoon. His sacrifice for his convictions of freedoms and the right to pursue it, individually, without undue restraint will remain as an inspiration to the men of this company."

SILVER STAR CITATION

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 8, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Robert Thomas Rice, Jr., United States Army, for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, First Lieutenant Rice distinguished himself while serving as a Platoon Leader with Company B, 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. On 8 August 1970, Company B was set up in a night location when they suddenly began receiving intense hostile mortar fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Lieutenant Rice moved across the perimeter to direct his men to fighting positions. Lieutenant Rice continued to move from position to position, despite enemy rounds impacting all around him, and insured the safety of all his men. While still dangerously exposed, Lieutenant Rice was mortally wounded by shrapnel from one of the hostile rounds. First Lieutenant Rice's personal bravery, outstanding leadership and exemplary devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

