

# Walking in the Boots of Our Veterans

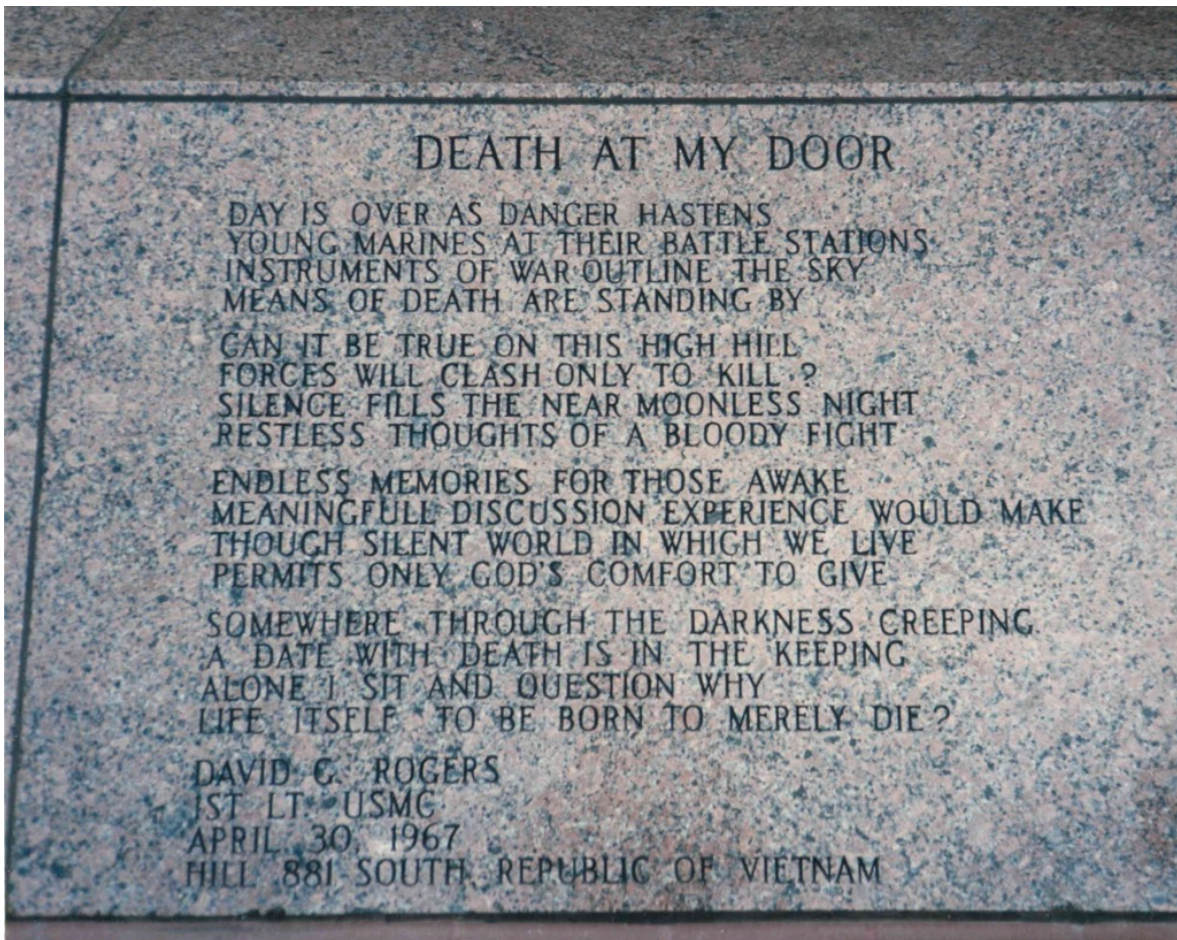
Veterans Day 2018



By Dave Rogers

Vietnam Veterans Memorial of San Antonio

**“Hill 881 South”**



“Hill 881 South” is a military statue located at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in downtown San Antonio. The sculpture was designed and constructed by Austin Deuel, a Marine Combat artist during the Vietnam War. Radioman PFC Donald Hossack is depicted as the model rendering aid to dying comrade PFC James Randall. It is popular with residents and veterans in the local area and tourists visiting “Military City.” Numerous military reunions are held year round in close by hotels. Annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day services are held at the memorial.

The poem “DEATH AT MY DOOR” was penned during the Battle of Hill 881 South, near Khe Sanh, on April 30, 1967 in South Vietnam by then 1st Lt. David G. Rogers, who was serving as an artillery forward observer assigned to M/3/3/3. It is inscribed on the base of the memorial and was dedicated to all Marines who were KIA during the battle.

Although depicting an eye-witness event by Austin Deuel during one battle fought by US Marines, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in San Antonio was dedicated in 1986 to all veterans who honorably served our country during the Vietnam War and fought in its many battles.

A history of related events can be obtained by clicking on the links below. Also included are tributes to two friends who lost their lives while serving in South Vietnam, two recommended books, a poem, newsreel and an oral interview.

## Links

The Battle for Hill 881 South: By David G. Rogers

<http://usmc-thebasicschool-1966.com/pdf/stories/rogers.pdf>

Movie Newsreel - Hill 881 USMC - 0:46 seconds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zsqRf2DxKo>

Vietnam Veterans Memorial of San Antonio - Official Site

<http://vietnamveteransmemorialofsanantonio.com>

Hill 881 South: 1968 Oral Interview - Marine Corps Historical Center - 75 minutes

[https://youtu.be/dw1\\_fO923f4](https://youtu.be/dw1_fO923f4)

Remembering the Hill Fights: By David G. Rogers - 2:56 min/sec

<https://youtu.be/5cIV9JbSvuA>

Revisiting Hill 881 South in San Antonio: By David G. Rogers - 6:39 min/sec

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qA1GTLWUMNM>

1st Lt. Marion "Hank" Norman: An "In Touch" Tribute: By David G. Rogers - 4:00 min/sec

[https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video\\_id=k4uzphUEPFs](https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=k4uzphUEPFs)

Captain Robert P. "Red" Rumley: A Classmate's Tribute: By David G. Rogers - 2:12 min/sec

<https://youtu.be/pNEwqgl725g>

Ca Lu Prime Ambush Country: By David G. Rogers - 1:38 min/sec

[https://youtu.be/5\\_puwtrMcCU](https://youtu.be/5_puwtrMcCU)

RED CLAY - Poem: By David G. Rogers - 2:05 min/sec

<https://youtu.be/VyunwOkOo-s>

## **Authors/Photojournalists**

Cathy Leroy: French Photojournalist on Hill 881 North with 2/3/3.

<https://iconicphotos.wordpress.com/2014/01/13/corpsman-in-anguish-cathy-leroy/>

Best Non-fiction book: “The Hill Fights of 1967 - The First Battle of Khe Sanh” by Edward Murphy -

<https://www.amazon.com/Hill-Fights-First-Battle-Sanh/dp/0891418490>

Best fiction book: “Darker Than Dark” by General John Admire USMC

A story of four young Marines in a rifle company (M/3/3/3) in South Vietnam.

[https://www.amazon.com/Darker-than-Dark-John-Admire/dp/1942451040/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1538931545&sr=8-2&keywords=darker+than+dark](https://www.amazon.com/Darker-than-Dark-John-Admire/dp/1942451040/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1538931545&sr=8-2&keywords=darker+than+dark)

## **Other Links**

<http://www.virtualwall.org/dr/RandallJA01a.htm>

[Hill Fights First Battle of Khe Sanh, 1967 - 2017 USMC Commemorative Series](#)

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