

**MEMORIAL SERVICE in Wichita, Kansas for
SPC THOMAS A. MOFFITT
D Company, 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry
KIA 23 October 2010**

Report & Photos by Tom Muskus (B/2-506 RVN 70-71)

**PREPARING FOR HONORS
30 October 2010**

The morning of 30 October 2010 began crisp and clear. The sun rose to a morning temperature of around 45 degrees and was accompanied by a light southerly breeze. By 7am, those who were to participate with the Patriot Guard in honoring SPC Thomas A. Moffitt were already on the road.

As a Vietnam Currahee (B/2-506), this Memorial Service had special meaning to me since SPC Moffitt was also a Currahee, a member of D/2-506. I was able to combine my attendance at the ceremony first as a Currahee and secondly as a member of the Patriot Guard. My duties as a photographer for the Patriot Guard allowed me the flexibility to also blend in with the service.

The Patriot Guard assembled approximately 1-1/2 miles off site. The final briefing was given as to route to be taken, actions upon arrival, positioning of the flags after arrival, and other appropriate honors. I had prepositioned myself at the church ahead of the Patriot Guard's arrival. The line of motorcycles stretched for over 1/2 mile to the crest of the hill in the distance and it there was a continuous stream coming over the hill. It seemed as if the procession would never end. All total, there were over 500 motorcycles, some with multiple riders, and approximately 60 vehicles, again, some with multiple occupants. All total, there were between 700-900 Patriot Guard participants who manned the flag line which lined over 600 meters of roadway and sidewalks along and into the church area with American flags. It was a very impressive display of support for this fallen hero and his family.



After the American Flags were positioned with their holders, the grounds were again silent, waiting on the arrival of the family and friends and the service to begin.



THE SERVICE



The Memorial Service was held at the Central Community Church in Wichita, Kansas. The church had placed American Flags every 10-12 feet along the main street for the entire length of the church property, a distance of approximately 300 meters. The church itself, with the exception of an area reserved for family, was full. Estimates by the ushers put the attendance in the neighborhood of 1600 people or more. It seemed as if there were many people who knew SPC Moffitt. The sanctuary platform itself was decorated with numerous red, white, and blue balloons, along with three huge TV Screens which hung from the ceiling. These screens played a continuous slide show of SPC Tom Moffitt's, pictures that showed a young man who enjoyed life. Also placed in a position of prominence was a plaque that SPC Moffitt had received from his unit in Korea. At 10 o'clock, a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace" led the family, friends, and several dignitaries into the church. Once all members were seated, the service began.



Prayers, welcomes, and reflections were offered by the pastor, SPC Moffitt's brother, and several friends. Music, slide shows, and videos were included throughout the service. The bagpiper led the family out of the church while playing "God Bless America". The family was again honored by a contingent of the Patriot Guard who rendered appropriate honors as they passed by them.



The service was not at all somber but rather very lighthearted. In talking with several of the friends, it seemed that that was the way everyone felt SPC Moffitt was in life. It appears that he was very well liked.

There were several uniformed soldiers present at the service to include Active and Reserve members of the 89th Sustainment Brigade (USAR) in Wichita, as well as several other Active Duty soldiers and a Marine who were friends of SPC Moffitt. Also in attendance was a representative of the Secretary of the Army, a LTG Arter and his wife, as well as the Acting Wing Commander from McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, COL Ron Langford.

At the conclusion of the service, guests were invited to another portion of the church building to share in light snacks and beverages. It was here that most of the greetings took place for the family and those friends who had not been able to see them before this day. It was a rather moving experience for all.

I had the occasion to meet with the Casualty Assistance Officer, MSG Gary Augustine, who had been with the family from the initial notification and will be assisting them. I explained that the Currahee Association would be making a presentation on behalf of the Association to the family when they arrived at SPC Moffitt's final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery on 12 November 2010.

Memorial Service Pamphlet



The Celebration of Tom Moffitt's Life

September 20, 1989 – October 24, 2010

Celebration Service

Tom Moffitt

October 30, 2010

Central Community Church

Wichita, Kansas

Seating of Guests – Central Community
Contemporary Worship Band

Family Processional –
“Amazing Grace” Bagpiper, Charles Liles

Prayer & Welcome – Pastor John Henry

“The Army Song” – Gene Simmons

Personal Reflections from Family

Slide Show Reflections of Tom

Personal Reflections – Jake Moffitt, Daniel Weller

“Living for Your Glory” – Central Community
Contemporary Worship Band

Message – Pastor John Henry

Celebrating: “An American Soldier”

Slide Show – “I’ll Fly Away”

Family Recessional –
“God Bless America” Bagpiper, Charles Liles

Please continue celebrating as we move to the Atrium for
fellowship and greeting family and friends