



## **1<sup>ST</sup> SGT. THOMAS L. GRAHAM**

**U.S. Army (Retired)  
Afghanistan - and –  
U. S. Marine Corps  
Vietnam War**

Thomas L. Graham began his military career when he joined the Marines in 1964. In 1965 he began his two tours in Vietnam. During his 1969 tour, then Platoon Sgt. Graham's unit came under heavy attack and for his action under fire he was awarded the navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for Valor.

Graham then joined the U.S. Army, National Guard and was deployed in 2004 as a 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. To Afghanistan as a Brigade Team Sgt. Major, Combat Advisor, and Embedded Trainer for the Afghan National Army's First Brigade, 201<sup>st</sup> Corps. For his exceptional meritorious service there he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

As 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Graham's daughter explained ".....being a part of the U.S. military was never a job for Dad, but rather a passion. From the first day he enlisted in the marines to his last day in the military, it was not a part of his life, it was his life. His desire and commitment to serve his country has constantly resonated in his actions and words. When my brothers both joined the military, our father couldn't have been more proud...."

Graham and his wife, Kathleen still live in Grove City, PA. Their daughter, Sheila Berry, lives in and their son, Nicholas, lives in . Their oldest son, Shawn A Graham died in Operation Iraqi Freedom on September 25, 2005.