

MY NEVER FORGET GARDEN

The reason I chose to create a Never Forget Garden was because my husband, Carmine, passed away on April 12, 2020 and he was a Viet Nam veteran.

When he was drafted in November 1966, he was scared because he did not know what to expect from the war. He was stationed in South Viet Nam. He shared with me quite often that the worst part was coming home to the USA. During that time, the US was torn apart between people who were pro and antiwar. There was so much controversy that when the soldiers arrived in the airport terminal returning from Vietnam, they were advised to change into civilian clothes as quickly as possible. The soldiers were called names and jeered, but Carmine said, “My country called me, and I went. If it was right or wrong, I don’t know but don’t blame me for it. The other thing that bothered him when he returned from the war, no one in his family other than his mother ever asked him about the war or if he was okay afterwards. I always made a point on July 4th and November 11th to thank him for his service.

When I saw the Never Forget Garden stone in Matthew Scott’s garden, I read the words on that stone and was very touched and moved by it and I had to have one. Matt gave me all the information and I purchased the stone as a tribute and peaceful place in my garden to see it every day and evening to always remember the sacrifices that all men and women in our Armed Forces do to allow us to have our freedom. I read what is written on that stone everyday so that I don’t forget we still have men and women fighting for us and they all need our love and support.

It is also a meaningful reminder of Carmine’s military experience and that he felt the military was not appreciated enough and I hope and pray that Americans will always pledge to support them with “our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

Karen Lodico

