

Carlos "Carlin" Juan Lozada Ortiz, 73, passed away peacefully in Guanica, Puerto Rico on January 10, 2018. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and had been awarded the Purple Heart.

Carlos was born on April 2, 1944 in Guanica, Puerto Rico. In late 1966, he was drafted into the US Army and stationed in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He served in the 5th Battalion 60th Infantry 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as a Mortarman. Carlos was deployed to Vietnam from 1967 - 1968.

In September 1968, Carlos was discharged from the Army. Carlos was the recipient of a Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Sharpshooter Rifle, and the Purple Heart.

Carlos was a brave soldier, as well as a loving father and grandfather.

He is survived by his son, Carlos and daughter in law, Darlene; his sisters, Rosalia, Adelaida, Sara and Olga; his grandchildren, Alicia, Alexis, Carlos, and Andrea; and great granddaughter, Evelyn.

The burial will take place on Saturday, January 13th, 2018 at 10:00am at the Cemetery in Guanica Puerto Rico in the designated area for Veterans.

Most Memorable Moment:

A couple of months before my 18th birthday I brought a recruiter to the house because I wanted to join the Marines and I needed dad's signature. The recruiter begins his pitch and dad tells him he's not signing for me. The recruiter is persistent and continues his pitch about the benefits of joining the Marines. Dad doesn't let him finish his 2nd sentence before telling him, "I was in Vietnam and I'm not signing for him. If he wants to join the Marines he can sign up when he's 18 and it will be his decision not mine." Before dad finished, the recruiter had closed his book, thanked dad for his service, and told me to come see him when I turned 18.

For years dad was bitter and angry about being drafted into the Army. Not only because of his experience in Vietnam but also because he had ambitions of being a professional baseball player. Before dad was drafted into the Army, he was signed to a minor league contract with the Lexington Giants, a farm team of the San Francisco Giants. He was no slouch either and had the talent and passion to become a Major League Baseball Player. So that's why for many, many years dad resented being in the Army.

But finding the the Association of the 5th Battalion 60th Infantry Regiment helped him come to terms with the time he spent in the Army. I remember going to the first reunion with him. I had never seen my father so happy. We were welcomed with open arms and felt like we were among family. As the days passed, I saw a glow in dad's face that I had never seen before. I could tell that a heavy burden was lifted from him as he reunited with the men he served with in Vietnam. That was the happiest I had ever seen my dad!