May 28, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Monday May 27, 2013 was Memorial Day, a day of commemoration for the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Today we remember former RCC student Specialist Four George Allen Ingalls. On January 30, 1969 in a ceremony in the office of the secretary of the Army, the Medal of Honor was presented (Posthumously) to his mother, Mrs. Maud M. Ingalls. Other awards and decorations earned by Ingalls during his military service include: the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Gallantry Cross with Palm (Vietnamese), Military Merit Medal (Vietnamese), and Vietnam Campaign Medal (Vietnamese). The photo and account below appeared in the February 20, 1969 edition of the “Tiger Times” student newspaper.

“On 16 April 1967, Specialist Ingalls, a member of Company A, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Battalion, 5\textsuperscript{th} Cavalry, 1\textsuperscript{st} Cauvery division (Airmobile), accompanied his squad on a night ambush mission near Dac Pho, Republic of Vietnam. Shortly after the ambush was established, an enemy soldier entered the killing zone and was shot when he tried to evade capture. Other enemy soldiers were expected to enter the area, and the ambush was maintained in the same location. Two quiet hours passed without incident, then suddenly a hand grenade was thrown from the nearby dense undergrowth into the center of the squad’s position. The grenade did not explode, but shortly thereafter a second grenade landed directly between specialist Ingalls and a nearby comrade. Although he could have jumped to a safe position, Specialist Ingalls, in a spontaneous act of great courage, threw himself on the grenade and absorbed its full blast. The explosion mortally wounded Specialist Ingalls, but his heroic action saved the lives of the remaining members of his squad. His gallantry and selfless devotion to his comrades are keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon specialist Ingalls, his unit, and the United States Army.
Specialist Four George Allen Ingalls’ name appears on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC. Use the link below to view a post on him on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website.

http://www.vvmf.org/thewall/Wall_Id_No=25063

It is 2 years and 41 weeks until RCC’s 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC’s 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.

Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC Digital Library.

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