



**(8) Nurses  
The Angels of Vietnam**

THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES



**2nd Lt. Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba**

**Dec. 11, 1943 – Feb. 18, 1966**

**Carol Ann Drazba**

**was one of the first two women to die in Vietnam.**

**Described by family and friends as always adventurous, Carol joined the Army while in her second year of nursing school.**

**After basic training she was assigned to Fort Huachuca in Arizona, where she built her reputation as an excellent OR nurse.**

**As the Vietnam conflict escalated, the need for nurses and physicians also grew. In 1965, Carol volunteered for service in Vietnam.**

**She arrived in November 1965 and was attached to the Third Field Hospital near Saigon.**

**After weeks of endless hours in surgery, Carol was finally able to take off for a weekend of rest.**

**She never made it.**

**The helicopter that was taking her to her weekend R&R crashed, killing Carol, 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones, another Army nurse, and five others.**

**2nd Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones**

**Sept. 12, 1943 – Feb. 18, 1966**

**Even as a little girl growing up in South Carolina,**

**Elizabeth Ann Jones**  
wanted to be a nurse.

She graduated from the Medical  
College of South Carolina School of Nursing in 1964,  
and the following year joined the Army Nurse Corps.  
She was an ICU nurse at Fort Jackson, S.C., before  
she was assigned to the Third Field Hospital along  
with Carol Ann Drazba.

She was engaged to be married to a soldier she'd  
met "in country," Lt. Col. Charles M. Honour Jr., and  
the wedding was to be in Vietnam. Her mother had  
even sent her a wedding gown.  
She died along with 2nd Lt. Drazba and five others  
in a helicopter crash. The helicopter pilot was her fiancé.

## **1st Lt. Hedwig Diane Orlowski**

April 13, 1944 – Nov. 30, 1967

Hedwig Diane Orlowski was a graduate of the Hurley  
Medical Center School of Nursing in Flint, Mich.

She had been in Vietnam for nearly a year, assigned  
to the 67th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon, when  
she was temporarily transferred to Pleiku to assist  
with the wounded.

She was returning to her permanent post in Qui  
Nohn aboard a C-47 transport when it crashed,  
killing all aboard...

## **Capt. Eleanor Grace Alexander**

Sept. 18, 1940 – Nov. 30, 1967

Though no "flower child," Eleanor considered herself a political activist  
concerned with the conflict in Vietnam.

Six years as a surgical nurse in New  
York City's Madison Hospital left her feeling restless.  
In 1967, she joined the Army Nurse Corps and  
asked to be assigned to Vietnam. She was stationed

at the 85th Field Evac Hospital at Qui Nhon.  
She was on the same C-47 as 1st Lt. Hedwig Diane  
Orlowski, returning from Pleiku, when it crashed.  
Everyone aboard was killed.  
The city of Riverside, N.J., named a park in honor of Eleanor, a native.

## **2nd Lt. Pamela Dorothy Donovan**

March 25, 1942 – July 8, 1968

Pamela was born in Ireland, but grew up in Boston.  
After graduating from nursing school in 1965, she stayed on at the  
hospital, where she learned her profession until 1967.  
In November of that year she joined the Army Nurse  
Corps and was assigned to the 85th Field Evac  
Hospital at Qui Nhon.  
She was only there for three months when she became seriously ill and died.  
A road leading to the St. Gabriel's Monastery in  
Brighton, Mass., where her parents worked, was  
named in her honor in 1969.

## **Lt. Col. Annie Ruth Graham**

Nov. 7, 1916 – Aug. 14, 1968

Annie Graham had been a career Army nurse since graduating from  
nursing school in 1942.  
She served in Europe during World War II and left active duty in 1945, becoming a  
reserve officer as she completed her Bachelor of  
Science in Nursing degree at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.  
She returned to active duty in during the Korean  
War, and in the following 13 years completed tours  
in Europe, Africa and the United States.  
In 1967, she was assigned as chief nurse, 91st Evac  
Hospital in Tuy Hoa, Vietnam.  
While on duty, she suffered a sudden internal  
hemorrhage and was taken by air to Japan for  
surgery. Never regaining consciousness, she died three days later.

## **1st Lt. Sharon Ann Lane**

**July 7, 1943 – June 8, 1969**

**Sharon Ann Lane was the only nurse in Vietnam to die under enemy attack.**

**She was stationed at the 312th Evac Hospital at Chui Lai. To the west and south were American marine bases, which often came under enemy mortar fire.**

**On the morning of June 8, after coming off duty from caring for Viet Cong prisoners, she returned to her hut for a brief rest. A rocket, overshooting one of the nearby Marine bases, struck a metal supply shed next to her hut and exploded. Sharon died instantly from flying shrapnel.**

**Though she joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1968, she had been in Vietnam for only two months when she was killed.**

**In her home of Stark County, Ohio, a statue of Sharon was erected to honor the men and women who served in Vietnam.**

**She was posthumously awarded the following medals:  
the Purple Heart**

**the Bronze Star with a "V" for gallantry**

**the National Defense Service Medal**

**the Vietnam Service Medal**

**the National Order of Vietnam Medal**

**the (South) Vietnamese Gallantry Cross (with Palm) .**

## **Capt. Mary Therese Klinker**

**Oct. 3, 1947 – April 9, 1975**

**Mary Klinker was the last nurse, and the only member of the Air Force Nurse Corps, to be killed in Vietnam.**

**She entered the service just a year after graduating from nursing school and was assigned to Travis Air Force Base in California. There she worked with U.S. servicemen wounded in Vietnam and released American POWs.**

**She was later assigned to the 10th Aeromedical Evac**

**out of Travis, where she cared for seriously wounded soldiers as they were being flown from hospitals in Vietnam to hospitals in Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii or the mainland. While on assignment at Clarke Air Force base in the Philippines, she volunteered for a humanitarian call to airlift orphans out of Saigon as the city was falling to the North Vietnamese. She and her medical crew were on the plane, a C-5, with the infants and toddlers, when just after take-off, an explosion ripped through the rear of the fuselage. As the cabin lost pressure, the pilots tried to turn back toward the airport, but the plane crashed in a rice field two miles short of Saigon.**

**Mary was posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism and the Meritorious Service Medal**