## From the Pen of Dr. Westphall

## **August 17. 1999**

## CHARLES CASTULO CISNEROS

Charles Cisneros was born on April 8, 1950 to Meliton and Margaret Cisneros in Cerro, New Mexico. He entered Military Service (US Army) on September 16, 1969 and achieved the rank of PFC. Upon completion of Basic Training, he was offered the opportunity to attend non-commission officer's training school, which he refused. Instead, he volunteered for combat in Vietnam. He arrived in Vietnam on the 13th of March 1970 as an Infantry Man in Co. D, 5th Battalion, 12th Infantry, and 199th Infantry Brigade.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June 1970, within the Fishhook Area of Cambodia, while on a search and sweep mission, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, of which Charles was a member, was attacked by an enemy force of unknown size with Claymore mines, grenades and small arms fire. Charles was mortally wounded by small arms fire. He was administered first aid, but never regained consciousness and died shortly thereafter.

Charles' body was returned to Cerro, New Mexico and was buried on July 2, 1970, with full military honors.

PFC Charles Cisneros was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal. the Purple Heart, and the Good Conduct Medal. Prior to his death, Charles had been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Respectfully,

Victor Westphall, PhD

Vietnam Veterans National Memorial