

Cpl Walter Robert Alexander Lemon Jr

Born 10/2/1933 in
Hazleton, PA

Died: 2/3/1981

Period of Service: Korea

Sources: Cemetery 108 S,
JG, wife Carol

Enlisted in service November 22, 1950. After training he was assigned to the 354th Engineer Battalion, and was sent to Korea.

He was born the ninth of twenty one siblings to Walter Lemon and his wife. His father was a coal miner, and the family was very poor. Though the family raised chickens, the children were only allowed to eat eggs on their birthday. After long hours in the mines his father's one pleasure was melted cheese on crackers, and Walter (who was generally called 'Bob') licked the plate clean after his father was finished eating.

He attended grade school and graduated, but had to spend his high school years working. He left the East Coast and travelled to California where he met his first wife, Dorothy, whom he married in 1957. They had two children Diane, born in 1960, and Mark Anthony born in 1966. Carol met him in 1978 and they planned a big Western theme wedding with an old time cattle roundup. However, Carol was coaching a girls' baseball team that Bob had sponsored. Carol's three girls, Brenda 11, Patricia 7, and Kimberley 6, were all on her team. The father of one of the other girls was a minister, and so Carol and Bob were married in a surprise ceremony before the game, which their team won.

Bob stood 6 feet 7 ½ inches tall and was called the "Gentle Giant" or "Cowboy Bob" as he had been a rodeo bull dogger in his past. He passed himself off as a carpenter as well as a bull dogger, but Carol was surprised six months after they were married to find he owned a construction company. He took her to get something from the office one night and she found when he turned on the light that his name was on the president's desk.

He adopted Carol's four children and they lived on a ranch in El Cajon, CA. Just before their fourth anniversary he fell to his death on a job site in Ceritos, CA. He was very good with children whether at horse shows with the girls or turning a wrench at the boys motorcycle races.