



IN MEMORIAM
DOUGLAS R. DICKERSON, JR.

At its opening in the fall of 1967, the Lawrence Neighborhood Service Center was dedicated in memory of 18-year old Lance Cpl. Douglas R. Dickerson, First Marines. He was the first black soldier from Lawrence Township to die in the Vietnam War. The date was August 15, 1967, just over a year after Cpl. Dickerson enlisted. He had graduated from Trenton Central High School that June.

Cpl. Dickerson had been in Vietnam eight months before he was wounded by an exploding device while on patrol near Quang Nam, So. Vietnam. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Dickerson, Sr. and his six younger brothers and sisters had heard his voice on ham-radio; and they had seen his photo and interview (done in Vietnam) in the special Look magazine edition on youth.

The Dickerson family had read in Douglas' letters that he was not afraid to fight and even die for his country because it "is my duty". He felt that "every man owes his country at least a two-year hitch in the service."

Cpl. Dickerson was born and raised in the Eggerts Crossing area. He attended Eldridge Park School,

and Lawrence Jr. High School. While at Trenton Central, he was a member of the cross country team. He had planned to attend college after his tour of duty, perhaps Georgia Tech. The deceased soldier's grandparents, Louise and Moses Underwood, remember him as a quiet, kind, hard-working young man.

Besides the Purple Heart with two gold stars and the gold stars for his parents, Cpl. Dickerson was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal in recognition of his service in Vietnam.

A plaque in Cpl. Dickerson's honor is planned for the new Neighborhood Center. August 15 would be a meaningful dedication date.

MEDITATION

America faces challenges greater than any which it has faced before. This is no time for complacency. This is no time to abandon the drive and the optimism and the imaginative creativity which have characterized this country since its birth. This is no time for timidity or doubt. This is a time for boldness and energy. This is a time for stout-hearted men who can turn dreams into reality.

Taken from: John F. Kennedy
Words to Remember

Library Committee cont.

Not only are several LWV members serving on the committee, but the League has also issued a call to members for books, especially encyclopedias.

Cataloguing reading material for the library at the new Neighborhood Center is the committee's chief task at the moment. They have also ordered many new books with center funds allocated for that purpose.

Committee members include besides Amy and Helen, Pinkie Melchor, Mercerlee Bennett and Dulcie Elliott.