



John Richard Bruns

Private First Class
United States Marine Corps, Active Reservist
Born July 21, 1931
Killed in Action September 20, 1951
Korean War

John Richard Bruns, son of John and Flora Pritchett Bruns, was born July 21, 1931, in Orange County, California. He lived on his family's farm in Tustin at the corner of Red Hill Ave. and Irvine Blvd. He was a native Tustinite, attending school from Kindergarten through high school, being a member of the Tustin High Class of 1949. He played football and was known as a fun-loving guy with the blondest hair. He was high school ASB president and member of the Tustin Class of 1949. People remember him riding his horse in his favorite spot, Peters Canyon, not far from where a street bears his name. He was an only child but chose to waive his right to stay out of the war zone. On November 10, 1950, he married his high school sweetheart, Roberta Cooney. He was 20, she was 17.

He enlisted Marine Corps, serving in the Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine, 1st Marines Division while serving as an 81 mm Mortar Operator during the Korean War. On a bright day at noon, he was crossing a rice paddy when he was struck by enemy mortar. He had just turned 21 years old.

Upon his death, John Bruns was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Korean Service Medal, the US Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea Service Medal. PFC Bruns was buried at Fairhaven Memorial Park in Santa Ana, CA.

