

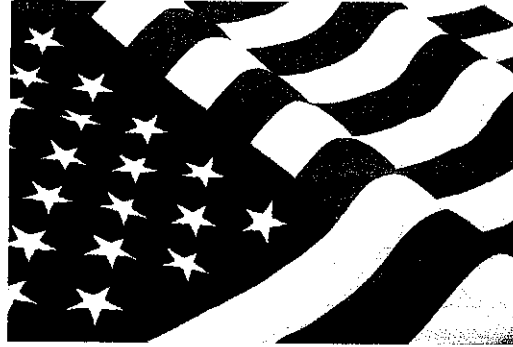
Ronald Wallace Memorial Scholarship

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The Ronald Wallace Memorial Scholarship is awarded yearly in May to a graduating senior of the Ivanhoe Public High School who is enrolled in a college in Minnesota. The scholarship is in honor of former Ivanhoe Public High School graduate Ronald Wallace, Class of 1966 and Sergeant, US Army who served his country in Vietnam and was lost in combat in May 1968.



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Background

Ronald Ray Wallace was born on March 14, 1948 and grew up in Ivanhoe as the son of Mr & Mrs Chester Wallace. Growing up, Ronald was a great young man and well liked by fellow students, teachers, coaches, and adults in the Ivanhoe area. He was involved in the Boy Scouts and was a mass server at St Peter and Paul Catholic Church. He worked on many local farms, shoveled snow for neighbors, and liked to fish and swim at the local lakes. He was very active in High School which included Football 9-12, Basketball 9, 10, 11, Drama Club 11 and 12, I-Club 10-12, Aquilla 12, Mixed Chorus 9 – 12, Band 11 and 12, and Track 9-12. While on the Track team his senior year, he broke the pole vault record for Lincoln County! He graduated from the Ivanhoe Public High School in 1966.

After High School, Ron enrolled at Mankato State College. After a couple of semesters, Ron decided that it would be better for him to serve in the Army and then attend college on the GI Bill. His plan was to major in Psychology which would enable him to help others.

He entered the US Army in May of 1967 and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Expert Badge with Rifle Bar. He did well in the Army and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Ron had a bright future and his plan to finish college after his Army enlistment was a good one. But sadly that would not happen.

In February 1968, the Vietnam War widened with the start of the Tet Offensive. More soldiers were needed in Vietnam and on April 23, 1968 Sgt Ron Wallace arrived there as a member of the 25th Infantry Division. On May 27th, 1968 his unit was involved in a major battle in the province of Gia Dinh, South Vietnam. Sergeant Ronald Ray Wallace, a wonderful young man from Ivanhoe, was lost in this battle at the age of just 20 years old. This young man's service in the US Army was marked by distinguished professional ability and he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

This scholarship is intended to honor his memory and to help others.



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