

Leon J. Gerber
July 12, 1945 – March 10, 1968

MONTICELLO — Leon J. Gerber, 22, a veteran of two years in Vietnam while serving four years with the Marine Corps, was fatally injured in a multiple car crash early Sunday north of New Glarus.

Gerber was discharged from active duty May 22, 1967, and had been employed in Freeport. He was a sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Born in Monroe July 12, 1945, and a 1963 graduate of Monticello High School, he was a member of Zwingli United Church of Christ.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Werner Gerber, Monticello; three brothers, two sisters: a grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Walser, Menlo Park, Calif, and a grandfather, Ulrich Gerber, Monroe.

Services and military rites will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Voegeli Funeral Home with burial in Highland Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home from 7 to 9 tonight.

Leon J. Gerber, 22, was born in Monroe July 12, 1945, a son of Werner U. and Hedwig Walser Gerber. He graduated from Monticello High School in 1963 and enlisted in the Marine Corps, reporting for service June 17, 1963.

He served as a carpenter for Combat Engineering Group in Vietnam for more than two years. During one of his tours of duty there, he was the non-commissioned officer in charge of the construction of a chapel at Marble Mountain Air Facility in Vietnam.

He was discharged from active duty as a sergeant in the Marine Corps. His enlistment period was up May 22, 1967. He had received several citations and ribbons, including a Certificate of Achievement for his work on the chapel, citing his resourcefulness and ability to work with a volunteer force, overcoming the problems of lack of tools, material shortages, and adverse weather conditions.

Mr. Gerber had worked for Kuhne Lumber Co., Monroe, and in December, 1967, started working at Kelly Springfield Plant, Freeport.

Surviving are his parents; three brothers, Werner Jr. and Gerald, both of Monroe, and Dean, at home; two sisters, Linda, a senior at Monticello High School, and Gloria, a sophomore at Monticello; his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Walser, Menlo Park, Calif. and his paternal grandfather, Ulrich Gerber, Monticello, now at the Monroe Manor Nursing Home. A brother, Gary Dean, died in infancy, Oct. 10, 1957.

Funeral services for Leon Gerber will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, in Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello, where he was confirmed. Rev. J. Allan Mittler is to officiate. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery, Monticello.

The family will meet friends at the Voegeli Funeral Home in Monticello from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday. Visitation also may be made at the church after 1 p.m. Wednesday.