

TOWN OF
WATERTOWN

Office of the Town Manager



Michael J. Driscoll
Town Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
townmgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager

Date: May 9, 2019

RE: Agenda Item – Acceptance of Proclamation Dedicating a Memorial Square to
Private First Class Paul James Gorman

Attached please find email correspondences from Patrick George, Veterans' Services Officer respectfully requesting a Memorial Square be dedicated to honor Private First Class Paul James Gorman - United States Marine Corps who was killed in action on July 30, 1968 while honorably serving our country in Viet Nam. The Memorial Square will be located at the corner of Emerson and Main Streets.

For background purposes, I have included a copy of the Watertown Memorial and Dedications Policy that the Honorable Town Council adopted at the July 12, 2016 Town Council Meeting.

I respectfully request the attached Proclamation honoring PFC Paul James Gorman be placed on the May 14, 2019 Town Council Agenda for your favorable consideration and action.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Steven Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning/Assistant Town Manager
Patrick George, Veterans' Services Officer
Gerald S. Mee, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works
Jesse L. Myott, Director of Administration and Finance, Department of Public Works



Proclamation

Whereas: Paul James Gorman was lovingly raised along with his four siblings: Jack, Eugene, Bob, and Bonnie; by John and Madeline Gorman, who made their home on Emerson Road in Watertown, Massachusetts; and,

Whereas: The Gorman children attended Watertown schools, were active in the community and both Paul and Bonnie Gorman were called to service in defense of the United States of America during the View Nam War; and,

Whereas: The youngest Gorman son, Paul, enlisted in the Marine Corps September 12, 1967 and proceeded to Parris Island South Carolina to begin training as a Marine Corps 0341, Mortarman. PFC Gorman deployed overseas with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion 4th Marines 9th MAB FMFPAC, and on July 30th 1968, was killed in action while assaulting an enemy position in support of casualty evacuation operations; and,

Whereas: On July 30, 1968, The President of the United States of America pursuant to authority vested in him by Congress awarded the Purple Heart established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 posthumously to Private First Class Paul J. Gorman, for military merit and for wounds received in action resulting in his death on July 30, 1968; and,

Whereas: PFC Gorman is buried in Ridgelawn Cemetery in Watertown Massachusetts, alongside his loving parents.

Now therefore be it resolved: that the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown hereby honors and recognizes Private First Class Paul James Gorman for his ultimate sacrifice for this country, by naming the intersection of Main Street and Emerson Road in his honor **“Private First Class Paul James Gorman Memorial Square.”**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Watertown to be affixed on this 14th day of May, 2019

Mark Sideris
Town Council President



TOWN OF WATERTOWN

Veteran Services

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6416
Fax: 617-924-0858
www.watertown-ma.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager
From: Patrick George, Veterans' Services Officer
Date: May 2, 2019
Subject: Appropriate Public Dedication for Paul J. Gorman (KIA- Marine Corps)

On May 1, 2019 Bonnie Gorman requested the Town of Watertown identify and dedicate a public street or square in honor of her brother, Private First Class (PFC) Paul J. Gorman. Paul was a Marine who gave his life in service to his country. Bonnie herself served her country; as a Sailor forward deployed on a hospital ship in Viet Nam.

PFC Gorman lived on 23 Emerson Road in Watertown, he was a graduate of Watertown High School; a copy of the Class of 1966 Yearbook is held in the historical preservation room in the Watertown Library. Following his graduation, Paul and several friends decided to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

On July 30 1968, only four days after his 20th birthday, PFC Gorman was tragically killed by enemy fire in the Quang Tri Province of Viet Nam along with three other Marines: PFC William R. Almon, of Auburn, ME; PFC Jerry L. Patterson, of Checotah, OK; and PFC Floyd E. Sellers, of Caryville, FL. PFC Gorman was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon National Defense Service Medal Vietnam Campaign Medal Vietnam Service Medal Distinguished Unit Citation Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation Good Conduct and Medal Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal. PFC Gorman is buried in Section M of the Ridgelawn Cemetery in Watertown, MA.

In accordance with the "Watertown Memorials and Dedications" policy adopted on July 12, 2016, I respectfully submit that PFC Gorman fulfills all of the criteria established for a formal dedication and would request the town proceed to identify an appropriate location for his memorial. The verified documentation is attached for your review.

As the Veterans' Services Officer I remain committed to ensuring the Veterans of Watertown are supported to the best of my abilities, and are appropriately honored once they have passed.

I will be happy to assist in any way I can.

CC: Thomas J. Tracy, Town Auditor/ Assistant Town Manager
Steven Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning / Assistant Town Manager

George, Patrick

From: bonnie gorman <bonniegorman1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2019 9:42 AM
To: George, Patrick
Subject: Watertown resident PFC Paul James Gorman USMC killed in action 7/30/68

As a Gold Star family, the Gorman family would like to request a Gold Star memorial for Paul. Paul was born and died as a Watertown resident at 23 Emerson Rd. His parents lived there until their deaths. (John died in 1996 when we sold the house.) All are buried at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Watertown

Paul was a graduate of Watertown High School, class of 1966. He graduated from St Patrick's grammar school. He was active at both St Patrick's and St Jude's parishes where he was an altar boy.

Paul was easygoing teenager who was active in community sports, and baseball was a passion. He had many friends who loved to hangout and listen to trending music. Getting his license was a milestone for him. He was not ready for college. He wanted to something more exciting after graduation, so he signed up with the Marines much to the distress of family.

Paul was Killed in Action along the DMZ on July 30,1968, just in time to celebrate his 20ieth birthday. Not may teenagers lived to make it home that year or many other years, as we have now moved to a state of never-ending war. Paul's death was followed by mom's massive heart attack and total disability until her death. Like so many Gold Star Mothers, she too died of a broken heart.

Paul was the youngest of five children: Jack (deceased), Eugene, and twins Bob and Bonnie (aka Mary). Bonnie was also a Navy Nurse in the VietNam Med Evac Hospital Network (ICU, Med Evac, VietNam Medic Training program).

I have given Patrick George all of the military and civil documents and media coverage at the time, as well as photos and letters. I can provide any additional materials you may need.

I'm sending you my 'Letter to Paul' to let him know of Marine Mike Gorman's death, for more background on family for council and others.

Thanks for the opportunity to honor Paul.

Peace,

Bonnie Gorman RN
222 Rock Island Rd
Quincy MA 02169
617-472-4498
bonniegorman1@gmail.com

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1968

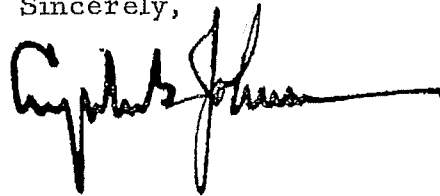
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gorman:

I was deeply distressed to learn of the death of your son, Private First Class Paul J. Gorman.

Calling on young Americans to suffer great pain and even loss of life in Vietnam is the most agonizing responsibility of my office. Yet I know that your son was a brave man, whose honor and love for his country will continue to preserve the right of all people to remain free.

I pray God will grant you comfort at this time of sorrow and strength for the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyndon B. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Gorman
23 Emerson Road
Watertown, Massachusetts

Biographical Sketch



FIDELI GERIA MERGES

in the Armed Forces of the United States of America

Forgotten but Never Forgotten

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS PAUL J GORMAN

*Also Died while in the Service of our Country
as a Member of the*

United States Marine Corps

*number 30TH day of JULY 1968 This information is accurate
and determination of Armed and United States Service*

*Paul J. Gorman
Secretary of the Navy*

GORMAN
(Surname)

PAUL JAMES
(Christian name)

2394236 621 36 8019
(Army serial number)

Residence 23 Emerson Road Watertown Midd. Mass.
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

Enlisted ~~Indroctok Gorman~~ (Date and place) 12 Sept. 67 Waltham, Mass.

Component force. USMC Active duty began (Date) 12, Sept. 67

Born in Boston, Mass. Date of birth or age. 26 Jul 48

Organizations: BLT 2/4 9THMAB FMFPAC FPO SFRAN 96602

Grades: PFC

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action:

Served overseas From to (over)

Service terminated—Honorably—~~Not honorably~~ (Date) 8/1/68
at Vietnam by reason of KIA(H)

Name and address of kin and relationship: Mr. & Mrs. John T. Gorman (P)


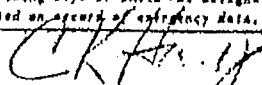
same add.
AGC MASS. 51 50M-2-60-927141 (Remarks on reverse side)

VIETNAM SERVICE

D 262
Release 8/1/68
Far Dept.

D-262

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

REPORT OF CASUALTY		REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE 4201-68 FINAL JDH/dcs		DATE PREPARED 6Aug68
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Service Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization)				
GORMAN Paul James		2394236/0341	PFC USMC	BLT 2/4 9THMAB FMFPAC FPO SFRAN 96602
2. CASUALTY STATUS				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE KIA				
Died 30Jul68 Quang Tri Province (01) Republic of Vietnam result gunshot wound to the head from hostile rifle fire while on operation				
3. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, RACE, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE, AND DATE OF RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA				
26Jul48		Boston Mass	Cau C	12Sep67
4. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME				
12Sep67		Boston Mass	Watertown Middlesex Mass	
5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY				CHECK IF APPLICABLE
021-36-8019		E-2	Under 2 BP 113.40	HFP 65.00 FDP 8.00
				<input type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW
6. DUTY STATUS				
ACTIVE On Duty Date Arr RVN 4May68				
7. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)				Footnotes
Mr John T Gorman		23 Emerson Rd Watertown Mass 02172		Fath 1
Mrs Madeline E Gorman		Address Above		Moth
8. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW		9. REPORTING COMMAND AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT		
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		CTG 79.4 301521Z JUL68 RCD 31Jul68		
10. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER, LOCAL BOARD, AND LOCATION (If unknown, enter date and place of first entry in Armed Services)				
19-16-48-526 #16 Arlington Mass				
11. PRIOR SERVICE DATA				
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO				
12. REMARKS				
				
FOOTNOTES: ¹ Adult next of kin. ² Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child-as designated on record of emergency data. ³ Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances-as designated on record of emergency data.				
13. DISTRIBUTION		14. SIGNATURE		
B		 C. K. HALEY, FIRST LIEUTENANT, USMC ASSISTANT TO HEAD, CASUALTY SECTION PERSONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS		



TOWN OF WATERTOWN

Veterans' Services
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
Phone: 617-972-6416
Cell: 781-645-9127
Fax: 617-972-6403
www.watertown-ma.gov

Watertown Veteran Memorials and Dedications

This policy covers the issuance and presentation of Memorials and Dedications in the community to include sidewalk signs, Street dedications, Square dedications, Stones, Plaques, Parks and Buildings.

To be considered for a Veteran Memorial or Dedication, the individual to be honored must meet the following requirements:

- Watertown resident at the time of enlistment into the Armed Forces
 - Veteran Killed in Action (KIA)
- Or**
- Medal of Honor Recipient

The Process for Veterans Memorials and Dedications

- All requests for Veterans' Memorials must be submitted through the Veteran's Services Officer.
- A member of the family must make a written request indicating the name of the Veteran, service, rank and area of designation along with proof that the veteran was a Watertown resident at the time of enlistment, killed in action (KIA), or a Medal of Honor Recipient. Examples include: newspaper clipping, telegram, notice of death, DD-214 stating the veteran was killed in action, etc.
- The Veteran's Services Officer will verify the applicant's eligibility.
- The Veteran's Services Officer will forward the completed request to the Town Council.
- The Town council shall approve or disapprove any Memorial or Dedication by resolution.
- The Town Manager, upon approval by the Town council, shall implement the Memorial or Dedication requested.
- The name is then placed on a permanent list of Memorial dedications tracked by the Veteran's Services Department.
- The Veteran's Services Officer shall be the caretaker of all Veteran Memorials.

ADOPTED BY WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL JULY 12, 2016

Mail the application and all supporting documents to:

ATTN:
Watertown Veterans' Services Department
Memorial and Dedications
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472