Brian McGinn Remembered

Brian McGinn of Alexandria, VA, a Vietnam veteran and an accomplished author, died on July 20, 2005 after a long illness. On July 23, he was buried at Mt. Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria.

Brian was born in New York, but raised and educated in Ireland. In 1969-1970, he served with U. S. Army intelligence in Vietnam. He was a key member of a team of dedicated people from all walks of life who for many years worked diligently to get posthumous U. S. citizenship (upon application) for non-citizens of all nationalities who served, fought and died in our nation’s wars while wearing Uncle Sam’s uniform.

The Irish born men hailed from counties Cork, Mayo, Kerry, Limerick, Roscommon, Longford, Leitrim, Galway, Antrim, Tipperary and Louth. Twenty-seven of them served in the Army; one was a Marine. Twenty were killed in action, two died while POW, one died of wounds, one was missing in action and four were non-hostile deaths.

After a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on October 30, solemn ceremonies took place on Capitol Hill and at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Many notables attended that day, including Gen. P. X. Kelley, former commandant of the Marine Corps, who shepherded the process of the campaign in the final days leading up to the signing of the bill.

Pat Maguire, of County Fermanagh, Ireland, a decorated Korean War veteran, was the person who convinced McGinn to research all