

## The Vietnam Veterans Memoria letter to Pattil.doc

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Sat Jun 11 2011 11:04:28 PM

**Subject :** The Vietnam Veterans Memoria letter to Pattil.doc

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**To :** Kirk Patti <ckirkfirst@comcast.net>

### The Vietnam Veterans Memorial...The Wall-USA

One evening when I was on a website researching military records, I noticed an advertisement at the bottom of the website for supporting the Vietnam Veterans Wall Memorial. My husband and I had made a trip to Washington and one of the places we visited was the Vietnam Wall Memorial to find my husband's cousin, Alan Ivan Smith's name, so when I saw that advertisement I wanted to see if it had any information to add to the family genealogy on my husband's side. On that particular site I was able to fill in my husband's cousins' name and the next screen that came up was a picture of the area of the wall with his name written on it. I "clicked" on the highlighted name and a window popped up with all the details of his military life including where he was born, date of birth, date of death, how he died and much more. I had a "snapshot" application we have been using called HyperSnap 6 and "snapped" the information into a Word Document to add to my binder.

Tried again to go back to that original free website but somehow it wasn't in my bookmarks. Goggled Vietnam Memorial Wall and came up with this other free better site. GOTO <http://thewall-usa.com/index.asp#search>

1. Fill in the name Alan Ivan Smith...a page will come up with some basic information. Then click on the box that says (Alan Ivan Smith Information Page).
2. That will take you to more information. Click on the box (Personal Comments or Pictures Click here)
3. That took me much by surprise to an actual Newspaper Photo of Alan and comments that visitors had to say about him! I then had the cemetery information from the news clipping but when I went to findagrave.com the picture of his gravestone was not there. I recall now I do have a picture of his grave from a visit long ago that I must find.

Recalling the painful memory that Alan had died on my birthday, Oct.22 brought back vividly where I was and what I was doing when we received the phone call.

The article gave another nephews name and email address that I was able to add to my chart on Alan. I emailed him and even though his post was March 2009, I am anxiously awaiting to

see if he replies.

