

If the measure of a man is the loyalty of his friends, then Billy Dutches was a giant.

Billy, having lived his entire life in Hawthorne, had many friends, who after Bill's death in 1966 never forgot him. In 2011, Billy's friends and family requested that the town of Hawthorne honor Billy as the first serviceman from Hawthorne to be killed in action in Vietnam. Mayor Goldberg gave his approval, and on June 14, 2011 a portion of Kingston Avenue, where Billy grew up, was ceremonially dedicated *L/Cpl William Dutches USMC Way*. The tradition of naming streets in honor of our servicemen and servicewoman will continue until all of those who died in service to their country will be honored.

Shortly after graduation from Hawthorne High School, Billy enlisted in the Marine Corps on the buddy plan with his high school classmate Dominic Tutino. On June 23, 1964, Billy and Dominic arrived at Parris Island, South Carolina for Marine Corps boot camp and were assigned to the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. On October 9, 1964, after completing boot camp, Privates Dutches and Tutino were sent to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After infantry training, Privates Dutches and Tutino were separated; Private Dutches was promoted to Private First Class and dispatched to the Dominican Republic to protect American lives and interests during the civil unrest. Shortly after the Marines returned from the Dominican Republic, PFC Dutches was promoted to Lance Corporal.

On March 5, 1966 L/Cpl Dutches arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to G Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. The 2nd Battalion After Action Reports written by the commander during the period of March through May 1966, the battalion was involved in search and destroy missions. L/Cpl Dutches' squad leader Sgt. John A. Davis recalled that Billy was dedicated to his job and was extremely mature beyond his young age. Sgt. Davis also recalled that Billy was fearless in the heat of battle, and he could be counted on to do anything that was asked of him. "He was one of the best."

The battalion After Action Reports for June of 1966 details that on June 13, G Company was detached from the battalion and was sent east of Hoi An city in the Quang Nam province for a search and destroy mission, operating with the Army of South Vietnam. At 0630 on June 14, 1966 L/Cpl William G. Dutches was reported to be killed in action.

L/Cpl William Dutches was buried with full military honors at Maryrest Cemetery, Mahwah, New Jersey.