

Obituary of an Obit

... Stolen Valor brings Tarnished Honor

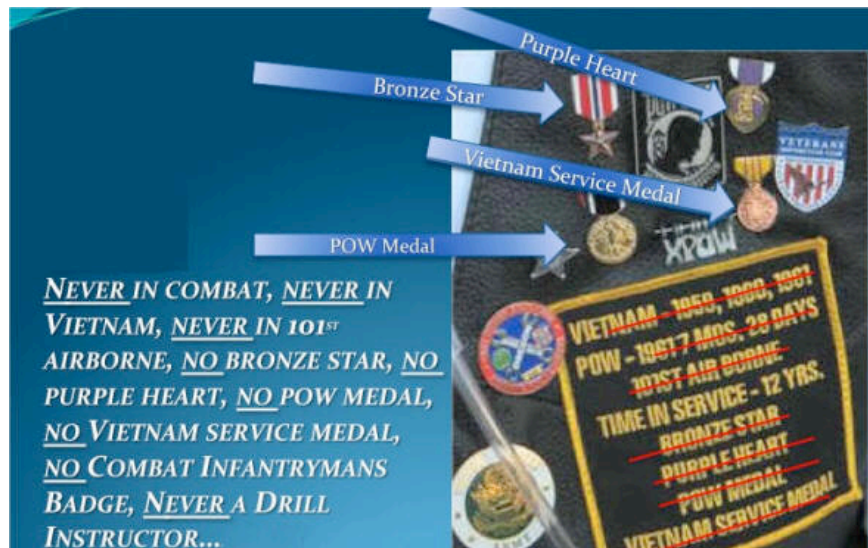
It was all so preventable, but [Jimmie](#) made the shame and embarrassment for his family simply inevitable. His stolen valor and decades of lying were to prove heavy burdens on top of the pain of the death of this beloved husband, father, grandfather, former soldier and friend to many.

His lies all exposed on the Internet, exposed through the correction of his self-prepared obituary, and exposed even further with [newspaper articles](#) detailing his stolen Valor...all laid out for friends and family to see what a phony he'd been. The truth of his Stolen Valor then picked up by [USAToday](#), veterans' web sites, obituary services...his lies all exposed forever for all to see, even his two Marine grandsons.

Why'd he do it?

We're not certain, but apparently his stories about "suffering" as a POW began perhaps decades ago. In the late '50s, he'd served three years active duty plus a bit in the National Guard, earning his country's gratitude as shown on his Honorable Discharge. After five

years total service he only made it to PFC, with no decorations and only Stateside service, so maybe felt it wasn't enough to impress the friends and family. He was mistaken...an Honorable Discharge was plenty, showing he'd done more than most others to serve his country.



So he became a hero...the really easy way. This hard-working, church-going, steady husband simply pinned on the necessary medals and badges to become a former POW, with the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, POW Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.

For extra admiration, on went the Combat Infantry Badge, Drill Instructor Badge and a 101st Airborne patch. Jimmie's stolen valor was dishonorable, un-American, and criminal! But for a former PFC with only his Expert Marksman Badge, he must have felt it was what he needed for respect. Certainly, he didn't feel it necessary to reenlist during the Vietnam War years to go with other veterans to **earn** his honors. But he sure wanted to impress us!

And impress he did! From the '90s and up nearly to his passing in January 2011, Jimmie put on his special vest from Pointman Ministries (shown above), and went out to welcome home returning veterans. He went to be honored at the Oregon State Fair with other POWs. He sought and received induction into the Oregon Military Hall of Honor as a former POW. He worked up interest among other veterans in his church to wear their uniforms on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, wearing his vest with all the glory. "Look at me" it seemed to shout. Honor the hero, the veteran whose valor the medals seemed to prove. He was too modest to go into much detail.

Jimmie's health failed him and his passing was approaching. Church friends, veterans themselves with military backgrounds uncovered the truth, and were surprised that Jimmie's lies were already exposed through POWNETWORK.ORG Double-checking the facts via a simple [Freedom of Information Act Request](#), they took the documents in hand to try to convince the family to back off the phony stories...trying, in effect, to drag Jimmie out of the line of fire certain to rain down upon his lies. Instead, they were handed Jimmie's self-prepared obituary. No amount of argument, no stacks of proof would convince the family to remove Jimmie's lies. His family seemed determined believe what Jimmie told them, or to hope the lies would remain undiscovered...it is hard to understand what their thinking was that night. One wonders what Jimmie's kids and grandchildren really knew, and whether they'd ever Googled their "war hero" grandpa.

Finally, the day came for Jimmie's obituary to appear in the local paper. Detail after detail of his "heroic" wartime service, the medals, the Combat Infantry Badge, his work honoring returning veterans, raising the POW/MIA flag at various ceremonies, giving school talks about military service...lie after lie all printed for the public to admire. The obituary described his pride about induction to the Military Hall of Honor, and how he was captured and kept a POW after being one of the first thirteen troops sent to Vietnam. Jimmie's memorial service went much the same way, with all the details read aloud, his Pointman Ministries vest on display with all the medals.

And then, exposure of his lies became virtually automatic. No home-town newspaper will fail to note the passing of a local hero, a former POW. It took perhaps a nanosecond for Jimmie's local newspaper's to Google the truth in preparation for their article, and the lies all came tumbling down in the most public way. Knowing it important to set the story straight, the paper did a [detailed article correcting the obituary](#) and exposing the phony claims, explaining the concept of the Stolen Valor Act, and even included a link to his real military records. Later, the reporter followed with a [personal article](#) about the discomfort she felt preparing such an exposure immediately upon Jimmie's death, but explaining the necessity of protecting the honor legitimate veterans have earned. The valor Jimmie stole had to be returned!

Jimmie's funeral home even corrected the [obituary](#) he'd prepared for himself, extracting the phony hero stuff and leaving in the simple details. Other sites followed, or referenced the [original newspaper's correction](#). Many [veterans' groups](#)

[web sites](#) joined in expressing anger over his phony claims. Even before his passing, Pointman Ministries had already ordered him to stop wearing their vest, and the Oregon Military Hall of Honor had already retracted Jimmie's induction...all these details were publically exposed, so it was surprising that neither Jimmie nor his family backed off their stolen valor lies.

Thus, the hero's obituary, meant by him to leave his family proud, has instead delivered public shame and embarrassment, with worldwide exposure of the lies left behind by this husband, father, and grandfather. His once-honorable service forever tainted by dishonorable lies and stolen valor. It was all so preventable, and his tarnished dishonor absolutely inevitable.