



Capt. Tony Paulson

HALL OF HEROES INDUCTION CEREMONY

May 25, 2023

11:00 a.m.

William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital and Clinics

**The William S. Middleton
Memorial Veterans Hospital
Hall of Heroes Committee welcomes
Capt. Tony Paulson
and his family members.
We are honored to celebrate
his heroism with them.**

HALL OF HEROES

INDUCTION CEREMONY

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Welcome	Jim Bove
Presentation of Colors	Wisconsin National Guard
Pledge of Allegiance	All
Invocation	Chap. Jon Van Dop
Greetings	Alicia Miller Acting Hospital Director
Biography	Tony Paulson Emily Witkiewicz
Bronze Star	Emily Witkiewicz
Formal Induction	Jim Bove
Benediction	Chap. Jon Van Dop
Closing	Jim Bove

A hero is a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.

While all the Veterans that come to the William S. Middleton Memorial Veteran's Hospital have demonstrated sacrifice and courage on behalf of our country. There are some who stand out for especially heroic actions during their service.

The Hall of Heroes is where we honor these brave Veterans.

We thank you for joining us in honoring a heroic veteran today.

Capt. Tony Paulson

U.S. Army Capt. Tyrone “Tony” Paulson was born in Whitehall, Wisconsin, to Theron and Anna Ruth Paulson. He is the oldest of four children: a sister, Rogene, who passed away in 1964 at the age of 14, and brothers, Ronnie and Verlyn.

The 1966 Whitehall Memorial High School graduate wrestled, played football and woke up at 5:30 a.m. to milk cows on the family farm. He spent a year and a half at Eau Claire College before being drafted into the Army in 1968.

After basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, he qualified for Officer Candidate School and was eventually sent to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, for truck driving school.

“We drove in the mountains and the desert,” Paulson said. “For one test, I had to drive down a mountain with two-by-four sticking out. There was a two-inch clearance and you had to

drive down without knocking them out of the truck.”

In October 1969, Paulson was deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry Regiment at Chu Lai where he became a platoon commander in Bravo company. “I was smart enough that I listened to the Veterans who had been there a while. They said if you make it the first 30 days, you’d be pretty good.”

After Charlie company suffered numerous officer losses, Paulson was transferred in as company commander. Since he was good at reading maps, he spent 11 months in combat instead of the usual six.

On December 12, 1969, an attack took the life of one of his soldiers, two legs from another and one more lost 1/3 of his brain. An award-winning film was produced documenting the attack. Each year on the anniversary, Paulson talks with the soldier who lost his legs.

On June 12, 1970, a mortar attack claimed 18 of his 23 platoon members. One of the explosions sent Paulson flying into a foxhole. The five who walked away went back to the landing zone, picked up additional soldiers and headed back into the valley to continue the fight.

“Being an officer, I didn’t want to show fear. Sometimes you bottle up your emotions; you don’t want to show them.”

Although never wounded in battle, Paulson came dangerously close several times. “I had eight bullet holes through my clothes that year. Once, I was sitting on a log doing my business when a grenade landed between my legs but it didn’t go off. I learned that I could run very fast with my pants around my ankles.”

These days, Paulson and his wife, Susan, enjoy visiting warm places like Arizona, Hawaii or Florida especially in February or March.



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**“To fulfill President Lincoln's promise
to care for those who have served
in our nation’s military and for their families,
caregivers, and survivors.”**