



Richard Perricone

Former POW has memorable gift from Donald Trump

Written by Red Warrior Whitney Echols

On July 12, 1967, B Company, 1/12th (Red Warriors) were engaged in a firefight with the NVA in the Ia Drang Valley. During the battle, seven Red Warriors from B Company were captured. These brave soldiers were Martin Frank, Cordine McMurray, Nathan Henry, Stanley Newell, Richard Perricone, James Schiele and James Van Bendegom.

They were forced to walk from South Vietnam to North Vietnam which took about 24 days.

During captivity, James Schiele and James Van Bendegom died from their battle wounds and torture. Once the POWs reached Hanoi, they were detained in the famous Hanoi Hilton prison. They were treated and tortured horribly and had to eat almost anything they could get to stay alive. They

remained in prison for almost six years and were released on March 5, 1973.

Richard Perricone was from the Bronx in New York City. In 1983, there was a parade in his honor and he and Donald Trump marched across the Brooklyn Bridge together. That night, there was a dinner to honor Richard and he sat next to Donald Trump.

During their conversation at dinner, Richard presented Donald Trump one of his POW bracelets.

About four months later, Richard was called to Trump's office in Trump Tower. Once he got there he was presented a 14kt gold replica of his POW bracelet. This bracelet has become much more valuable and very, very special to Richard, especially since it was given to him by now the President of the United States.

