

KRISTI LYNN ESTBY



Kristi Lynn Estby was born on 16 August 1957 in Willmar MN. She was the third child of four of Oneil and Patricia Estby. She attended Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar and was confirmed from that congregation. She attended Willmar High School and graduated in June 1975.

Growing up she learned about military service through her family. Her father and grandfather were military veterans. One of her two older brothers were in the Marine Corps, and she thought that she might want to become a Marine as well.

She desired the chance to serve her country, and the opportunity to see the country, learn a new skill, and be a part of something bigger than her life in Willmar.

As she explored her options, soon enough she made up her mind. She decided that she wanted to become a United States Marine.

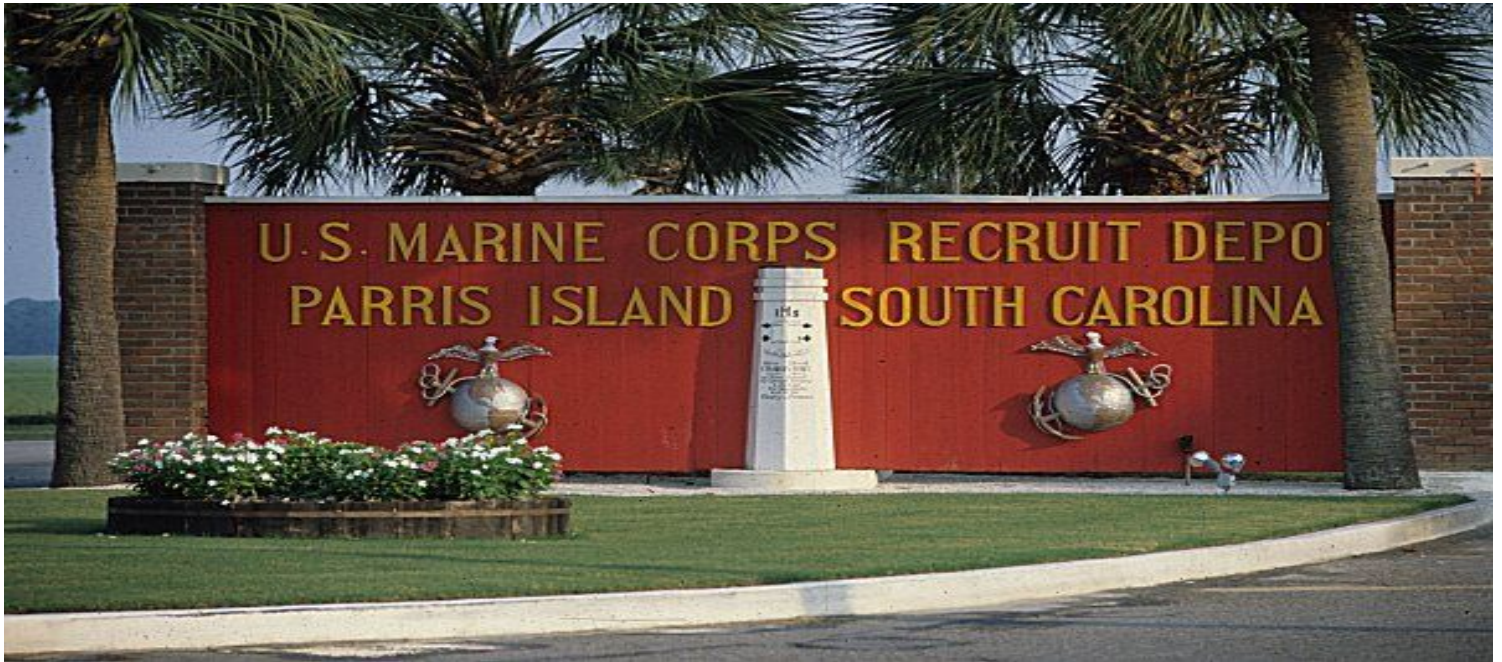




She went to the local recruiter's office and started to discuss her options. After some deliberation with the recruiter and her family, her mind was made up.

On 4 December 1975, Kristi enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. She was sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in Port Royal South Carolina.

This would begin weeks of Marine Corps Boot Camp, learning the ways of Marine life, and teaching her all she needed to know about being a Marine.



One of Kristi's first experiences as a Marine was getting off the bus and seeing the Yellow Footprints. As Drill Instructors yelled at her and the other recruits, they were hustled off the bus and placed on the Yellow Footprints painted on the ground.

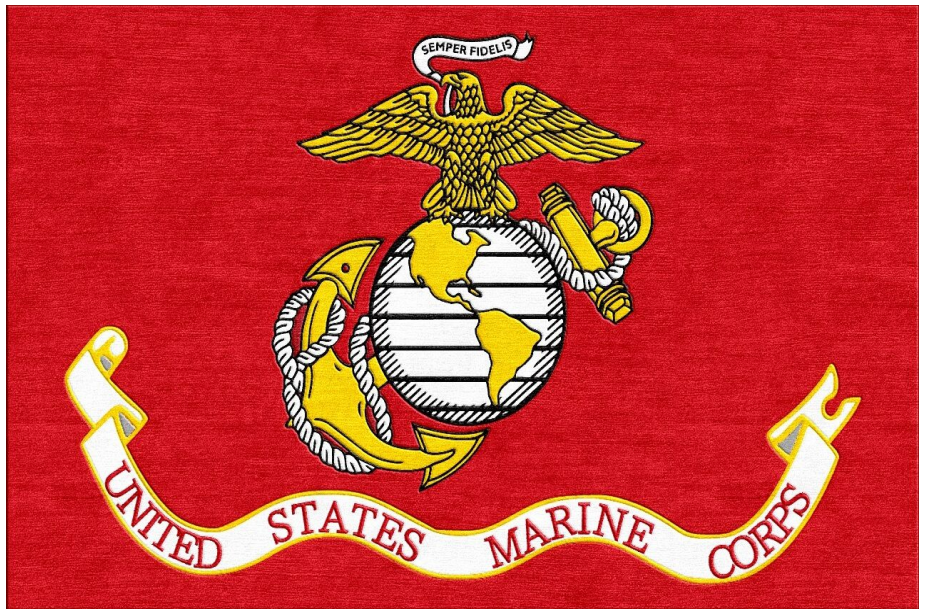
These footprints were painted on the ground in the 1960's to teach Marines how and where to stand as they get ready to move forward and become Marines.

Soon thereafter, they traveled through the Silver Hatches into the Marine Corps Recruit Depot to start her life as a Marine.



Marine Corps Boot Camp was an eye opening experience for Kristi. One of her first steps in becoming a Marine was Recruit Receiving. Here she began here transistion from civilian to Marine. She underwent full medical and dental screenings, military hair cuts, and issued her uniforms and gear.

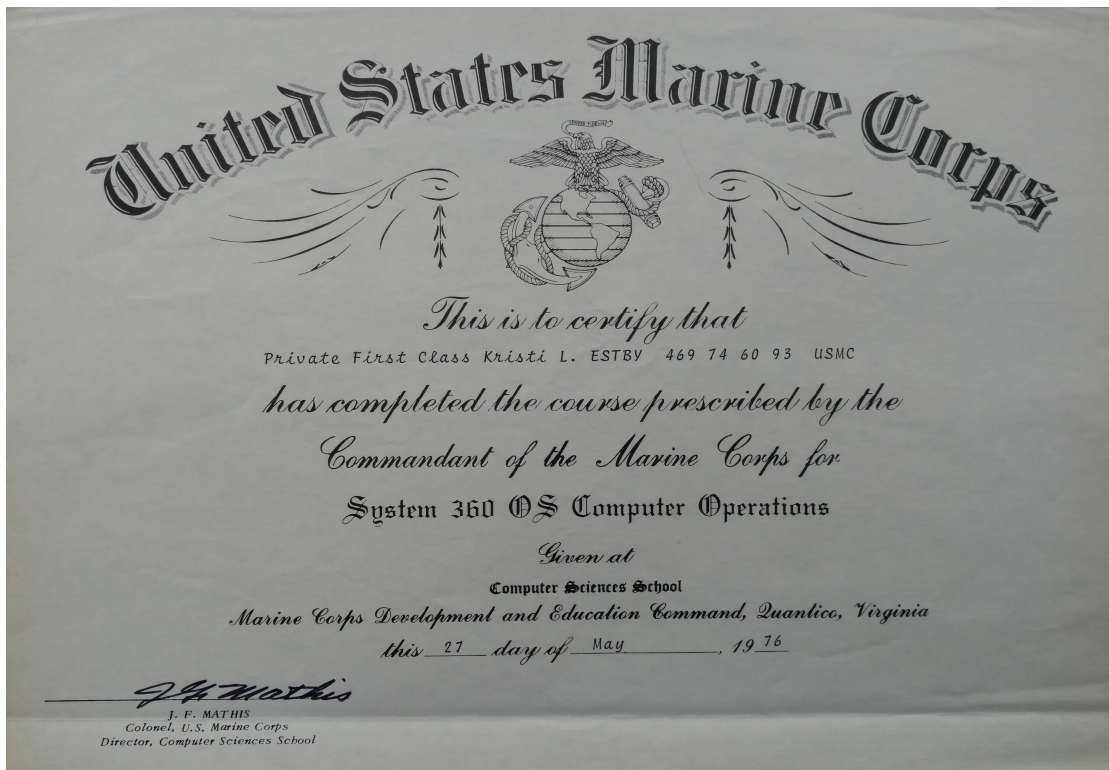
She also began an initial strength test, to test here physical endurance and see if she was physically able to under-go training. Runs, situps, push ups, and Pull ups tested her ability to be able to keep up with the rigors of the pysical needs of Basic Training.



In the Marine Corps, tradition and heritage is an intgral part of the training. In classroom exercises Kristi was taught about the history of the Corps, and learned about the traditions of the Marine Corps. They also began basic weapons training, learning care and competency with the various weapons.

The next section of her training included her field exercises. They worked more with weapons proficiency and spent time on the rifle range. They learned all aspects of proper weapon usage, care, cleaning, and mantinance. Kristi and the rest of her training company also were exposed to the Gas Chamber, and experience that no veteran forgets. They went into an enclosed room filled with gas and had to take off their masks and were exposed to the full effect of the gas.

After completion of her feild training, the final stage of her training began. This included more physical training, tests on her knowledge of Marine Corps history, and first aid training. Following weeks of training, Kristi found herself out on the parade ground graduating from Marine Corps boot camp. Soon she would receive orders for her job training.



Kristi was sent to Marine Corps Development and Education Command in Quantico Virginia. She became a student at the Computer Sciences School.

Over weeks of training, Kristi learned about the computer systems and operations of the time. She graduated from the schooling on 27 May 1976.

She would receive her orders for her next duty station.

Following a leave, Kristi reported for duty at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego on 6 July 1976. She was assigned to the Computer Services Division.

Computer use at this time was relatively new. The Marine Corps was on the cutting edge of technology, being one of the first to procure the IBM Series I Computers. The units would be considered archaic by today's standards, with 8 inch floppy disk capable to handle up to 1 MB of data. Also included was an 8 inch green and black monitor with a 25x80 resolution. The processing capability of these machines was also slow by today's standards, having 16 kilobytes of RAM for processing.

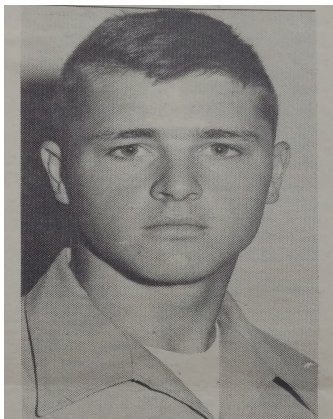


INSPECTING CAPTAIN — Part of Capt. Barber's job as Food Services officer is to insure that all dining facilities here are run properly.

Here he observes as PFC Christy Etsby (l), PFC Kathy Chase and SSgt. Chuck Gassett prepare a chicken dinner in Dining Facility 27.

With a Dot Matrix printer, clad in an 2 OD Green metal and plastic case, each case weighed over 100 pounds. The "Green Machine" as it became known didn't fully take off in San Diego until after Kristi's service there, in the early 1980's, but Kristi did work some with the early types of these machines.

More often though, the type of computers that Kristi worked with were much larger, room style machines to process the data that they gathered. Predominantly the tasks were relegated to data compilation for financial, personnel, and logistical operations. The early computers in San Diego were made by NCR (National Cash Register) and were massive machines that took up a large part of the rooms they were in and weighed 1000's of pounds.



TOP GRADUATE — Lance Corporal Mark E. Gabriel, a computer operator with Automated Services Center here, graduated as honor man from the Depot's Non-commissioned Officers Leadership School Friday and received a Letter of Appreciation signed by the commanding general for his efforts. The 19-year-old Pittsburgh native, who entered the Corps 19 months ago, graduated with an overall average of 92.4 percent. Gabriel said he enjoyed the school and that it "gave me a better understanding of what the Corps is really all about. I feel that all Marines should attend NCO School if they have the opportunity."

While in San Diego, she met another Marine that worked in the Department. Lance Corporal Mark E Gabriel. Mark was born in Two Harbors MN but had later moved to the Pittsburgh Pennsylvania area. He had been in the Marine Corps since October 1975. He arrived at San Diego in March of 1976, a few months prior to Kristi.

Working in near eachother on base, Mark and Kristi caught eachother's eye and soon they began to date. Both of them having ties to Minnesota they were able to relate well to one another, especially given the change in climate compared to California. Both of the worked in the Computer Services area of base.

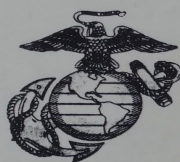
Their relationship began to grow and they became a couple, eventually becoming engaged. Spending much of their free time together, They had an opportunity to go away for a trip. They decided to head to Las Vegas Nevada to check out the sights and sounds of the Vegas Strip.

In the early morning hours of 12 February 1977 a tragic traffic accident took both of their lives. Kristi was 19 years old, and Mark just three months shy of his 20th Birthday. Brought to the Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose California, they died of thier injuries.

A memorial service was held in thier honor at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on 16 February 1977.

IN MEMORIUM

MARK EARL GABRIEL, LCPL, 195 48 97 51, USMC
 DATE OF BIRTH: 15 May 1957
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Two Harbors, Minnesota
 DATE OF FIRST ENLISTMENT: 31 October 1975
 DATE REPORTED TO MCRD: 31 March 1976
 DATE OF DEATH: 12 February 1977



KRISTI LYNN ESTBY, LCPL, W469 74 60 93, USMC
 DATE OF BIRTH: 16 August 1957
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Willmar, Minnesota
 DATE OF FIRST ENLISTMENT: 4 December 1975
 DATE REPORTED TO MCRD: 6 July 1976
 DATE OF DEATH: 12 February 1977

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTALION
 Marine Corps Recruit Depot
 San Diego, California 92140

MEMORIAL SERVICE 16 FEBRUARY 1977

PRELUDE Mr. Clair Brown

POSTING THE COLORS

SCRIPTURAL SENTENCES Chaplain A. B. Aronis

RESPONSIVE READING

CHAPLAIN: The Lord is kind and merciful.
 PEOPLE: THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL.
 CHAPLAIN: Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
 slow to anger, abounding in kindness.
 Not according to our sins does He
 deal with us nor does He requite us
 according to our iniquities.
 PEOPLE: THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL.
 CHAPLAIN: Man's days are like those of grass;
 like a flower of the field he blooms;
 the wind sweeps over him and he is
 gone and his place knows him no more.
 PEOPLE: THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL.
 CHAPLAIN: But the kindness of the Lord is from
 eternity toward those who fear Him,
 and His justice toward children's
 children among those who keep his
 covenant and remember to fulfill
 His Precepts.
 PEOPLE: THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL.

READING FROM THE PSALTER Psalm 139:1-13
 SSGT R. THOMPSON, USMC

READING FROM THE EPISTLE Romans 8:31-39
 CPL G. N. ZITTERKOPF, USMC

READING FROM THE GOSPEL John 14:1-6

CHAPLAIN: Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus
 Christ.
 PEOPLE: PRAISE AND HONOR TO YOU, LORD JESUS
 CHRIST.
 CHAPLAIN: I am the resurrection and the life,
 said the Lord; he who believes in
 me, though he die, yet shall he live,
 and whoever lives and believes in me
 shall never die.
 PEOPLE: PRAISE AND HONOR TO YOU, LORD JESUS
 CHRIST.

SOLO: "The Lord's Prayer"
 Sgt Linda J. ROBERTS, USMC

OBITUARIES: GySgt R. N. NYE, USMC
 2dLt J. L. ALEXANDER, USMC

MEMORIAL ADDRESS: Chaplain A. B. Aronis

THE MARINE'S PRAYER

HYMN: "Eternal Father"
 Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
 To all Marines, both night and day,
 The courage, honor, strength, and
 skill, Their land to serve, Thy
 law fulfill; Be Thou the shield for-
 evermore From every peril to the
 Corps. Amen.

BENEDICTION: Chaplain A. B. Aronis

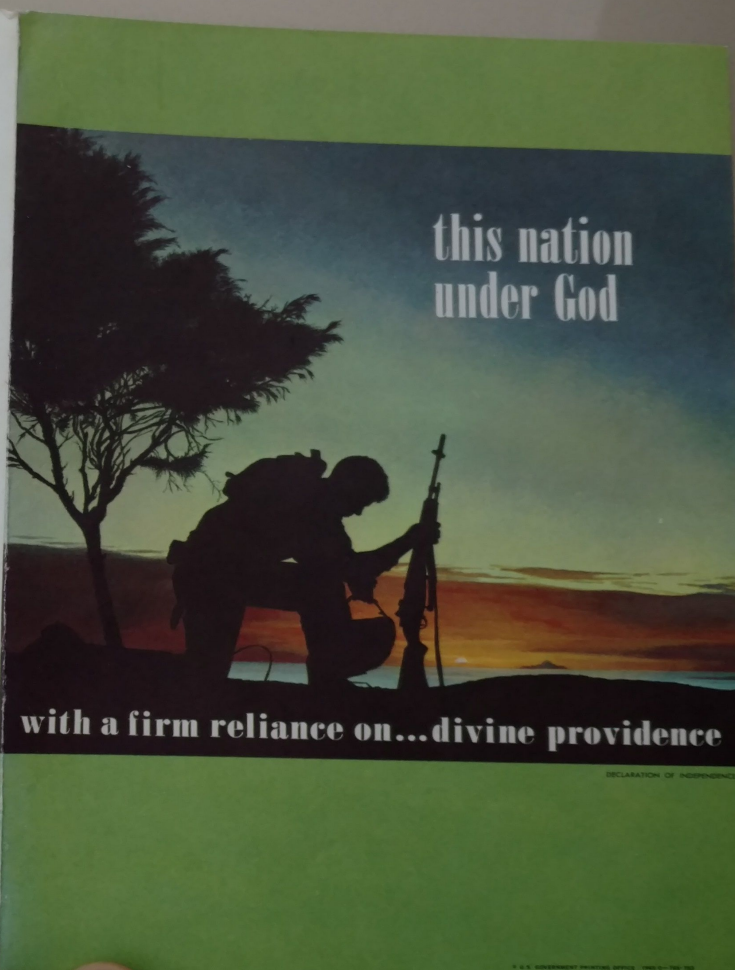
TAPS Cpl A. L. LANTRY, USMC

THE MARINE CORPS HYMN

POSTLUDE

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT

COMMANDING GENERAL MajGen K. J. HOUGHTON, USMC
 COMMANDING OFFICER Col J. F. ROCHE III, USMC
 HEADQUARTERS AND
 SERVICE BATTALION
 H&SBN CHAPLAIN Cdr A. B. ARONIS, USN



L/Cpl. Kristi Estby



The Rev. F. R. Lien officiated at funeral services held for L/Cpl. Kristi L. Estby of San Diego, California February 18 at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oniel Estby of Willmar, she died February 12, 1977 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, California. She had been a computer operator at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Automated Service Center in San Diego.

Special music during the services included "Children of the Heavenly Father" and the "Twenty-Third Psalm" sang by Jean Lowther. Interment was conducted in the church cemetery in Willmar.

Pallbearers included Ron Werder, Mike Leraas, Mike Ruplinger, Jerry Minderman, Mike Minderman, and Larry Herfindahl, friends and relatives of Kristi. Born August 16, 1957 in Willmar, Kristi died following an automobile accident in California.

Surviving are her parents; brothers and sisters including Mr. and Mrs. Danny Estby of Willmar, L/Cpl. and Mrs. David Estby of Jacksonville, North Carolina, and Angela at home; and a nephew, Stephen, of North Carolina.

CARD OF THANKS

In these hours of sorrow, it would be almost impossible to reach each one individually, so we take this means of expressing our heartfelt thanks to relatives, friends, and neighbors, who so earnestly gave loving kindness and sympathy at the departure of our beloved daughter and sister, L/Cpl. Kristi Estby.

We are especially grateful to Rev. F. R. Lien, to the pallbearers, donors of the many beautiful floral offerings and cards of sympathy, and also to the Peterson Brothers for their kind and efficient manner of conducting the funeral.

The family of Kristi Estby advt.

A CHILD LOANED
"I'll lend you for a little time
A child of Mine," he said.
"For you to love the while she
lives,
And mourn for when she's dead.
It may be six or seven years
Or twenty-two or three,
But will you, till I call her
back,
Take care of her for Me?
She'll bring her charms to
gladden you,
And should her stay be brief,
You'll have her lovely memories
As solace for your grief."

I cannot promise she will stay,
Since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught
down there
I want this child to learn.
I've looked this wide world
over

In My search for teachers true,
And from the throngs that
crowd life's lanes,
I have selected you;
Now will you give her all your
love,

Not think the labor vain,
Nor hate Me when I come to
call
And take her back again?

I fancied that I heard them say
"Dear Lord, Thy will be done,
For all the joy Thy child shall
bring,

The risk of grief we'll run.
We'll shelter her with tenderness
We'll love her while we may,
And for the happiness we've
known,

Forever grateful stay.
But should the angels call for
her

Much sooner than we planned,
We'll brave the bitter grief that
comes
And try to understand."

Funeral Services for Kristi Lynn Estby Set for Friday

WILLMAR — Funeral services for L/Cpl. Kristi Lynn Estby, 19, of the U. S. Marine Corps, formerly of Willmar, will be held Friday at 1:30 p.m. at the Calvary Lutheran Church with the Rev. F. R. Lien officiating. Interment will be in the church cemetery.

Friends may call from Thursday noon until Friday noon at the Peterson Brothers Funeral Home.



Kristi L. Estby

Born 8/16/57 • Died 2/12/77
Remembered always
by her family

Funeral services for Kristi were set in Willmar for 18 February 1977. Through immense grief, her family laid to rest their 19 year old daughter and sister.

She would be laid to rest at Calvary Lutheran Church Cemetery in Willmar.

Although taken at a young age, Kristi was never forgotten. Many years when the local paper would have a Memorial Day tribute, Kristi's family submitted her photo to help others remember.

IN MEMORY OF

L/Cpl. Kristi Lynn Estby

AUGUST 16, 1957 — FEBRUARY 12, 1977

Services

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1977, 1:30 P.M.
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Willmar, Minnesota

Officiating

REV. F. R. LIEN

Music

Organist—MRS. PAUL AAMOT
Soloist—MISS JEAN LOWTHER

Pallbearers

Ron Werner	Mike Minderman
Mike Leraas	Jerry Minderman
Mike Ruplinger	Larry Herfindahl

Military Honor Guard

Inspector - Instructor Staff
Military Police Company
Fort Snelling, Minnesota

Interment

CALVARY LUTHERAN CEMETERY
Willmar, Minnesota

Arrangements by
Peterson Brothers Funeral Home, Willmar

The TwentyThird Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evils
for thou art with me: thy rod and
thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil:
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life: and I will
dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



In December 2008, Kristi's Father, Oneil, was laid to rest by his daughter. Kristi's mother, Patricia, passed away in November 2019 and was also laid to rest by Kristi.

During Memorial Day weekend, a small photo of Kristi is placed at her grave in remembrance of her service and tragic loss.



On 20 November 2017, Kristi's family contacted USMHC about donating her uniforms to be a part of the collection and annual Display over Veterans Day. Estby's Dress Green Uniform, Summer Cord Uniforms and Overcoat were donated along with her hats.

Kristi's display is at the beginning of the display area, in an area dedicated to the Fallen, those who died while on active duty in combat or other circumstances.

It is a great honor to include Kristi's items to the collection and to the display to help keep her memory alive. Kristi was a patriot, like many in her family. She served in the Marine Corps to be a part of something bigger than herself, and tragically passed away while doing it. Her story, like all veterans, needed to be recorded and shared.

The memory of those who served shall not be forgotten, and Kristi's memory will live on through the United States Military Historical Collection.



