

## Henry Richardson Phillips Memorial Match

Each year the Rhode Island Revolver and Rifle Association kicks off its high power rifle season with the Henry Richardson Phillips Memorial Match. 'Hank' Phillips was active in the Rhode Island shooting community during the early 1960s shooting for the Smithfield Team and competed at Perry in the early 1960s with the likes of Jerry Graf, Bob Maguire, and George Hadley.

Hank was a member of the University of Rhode Island Army Reserve Officer Training Corps and shot with its rifle team. He was ordered to active duty with as an infantry officer upon graduation in 1962. He arrived in Viet Nam in May of 1968.

Phillips was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for, "extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty" for actions on August 25, 1968 when he rallied his troops when his unit, and a convoy it was protecting, was ambushed by two North Vietnamese battalions. The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest award that can be given to a member of the United States Army for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor.

Less than a month after the incident for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross he was a captain, serving as the commander of C Company, 4th Battalion (Mech), 23rd Infantry, First Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division in Tay Ninh Province, when he was killed in action on September 22, 1968.

Phillips other decorations and awards include the Silver, Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster in lieu of a second award, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Phillips rests in the Philips Memorial Cemetery, Foster, Rhode Island.