

1. NEWS ARTICLE w/Moran Photos -----

# District Airman, 19, Killed in Thai Crash

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When the Air Force captain knocked on Mrs. Betty Moran's door at 2:30 a.m. yesterday in Morgan, South Fayette Township, she didn't want to let him in.

"I heard about the helicopter crashing in Thailand on the news. I felt if I kept him on the other side it wouldn't be true," she said with tears streaming down her face.

The captain told her that her only son, Airman Edgar C. Moran II, 19, had been killed Tuesday in the crash of a CH53 helicopter 35 miles west of Nakhon Phanom Air Base in Thailand.

Mrs. Moran had been apprehensive since the capture of the American merchant ship in Cambodia. Last Monday she received a letter from her son saying the base was expecting an enemy attack predicting that she would be getting a Silver Star and a Purple Heart soon.

Edgar Moran graduated from Chartiers Valley High School last June and then enlisted in the Air Force. One of the attractions was a promise by the Air Force that he would be sent to college, Mrs. Moran said.

With his enlistment bonus, Edgar bought a car for his family, telling Mrs. Moran, "Mommy, you're going to have things which you never had." Mrs. Moran has four



EDGAR MORAN II

daughters: Millie, 4, Sondra, 11, Charlotte, 15, and Rebecca, 17. The family lives in a housing project at 6B Morgan Road.

"He was such a clown, a really good boy. He was a deacon at the Rennerdale Presbyterian Church," Mrs. Moran said, as she petted Edgar's dog Queenie, sitting next to her on the couch. In the center of the living room was an oil portrait of her son. On the television set there was a color photo of Edgar.

"It's such a waste," Mrs. Moran said, while holding her son's last letter in her hand. "But I'm not bitter. This is what he wanted to do. I've had 18 good years with him."

4. Moran photo for Option 1 Side 1



3. NEWS ARTICLE w/Moran Photo -----

## U. S. Copter Crash in Thailand Claims S. Fayette Twp. Airman

"I feel an emptiness and a hurt," Mrs. Betty Moran said sadly.

The South Fayette Twp. woman's only son, Airman Edgar C. Moran II, 19, is dead, one of 23 Air Force men killed when a CH53 helicopter crashed in Thailand Tuesday.

Mrs. Moran, who lives in Morgan's Project, said she knew her son was dead several hours before official notification, which came early yesterday morning.

"I heard about the crash on the 11 o'clock news and told my daughter, 'Eddie was on that, I just know it.'"

"It's such a waste, but he went willingly. He was so proud he was doing something good and so proud of that uniform."

In his last letter, Edgar told his mother to expect to re-



EDGAR C. MORAN  
Helicopter crash victim.

ceive a Silver Star and Purple Heart.

"I had a letter all ready to mail to him, telling him, 'What do I want with medals? I need you.'"

"He always felt people had to be proud of him."

Edgar, the oldest of five Moran children, was graduated last June from Chartiers Valley High School, where he was president of the Future Teachers of America. He was also active in Boy Scouts and was a deacon at Rennerdale Presbyterian Church.

He was born in Washington, D.C., and moved to Western Pennsylvania several years ago.

"He fell in love with Pennsylvania," Mrs. Moran said. "He would have wanted to be buried here."

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

2. VSPA FILE PHOTO: MORAN, EDGAR C.II

