

Hometown Hails Marine Slain in Vietnam

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MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa, May 13—The flag that Marine Lance Cpl. Darwin L. Judge gave his parents a memory or two ago hung limply today in the warm spring air over a new crop of golden dandelions bursting through the lush lawn in front of their modest green ranch house.

With the driveway jammed with cars, friends and relatives spilling out the door, the windows bright with bouquets, it could have been a holiday.

But it wasn't. The flag was flying at half-staff.

Nineteen-year-old Darwin Judge, along with Cpl. Charles McMahon Jr., 22, of Woburn, Mass., was killed by shrapnel in a rocket attack on Tan Son Nhut air base in Saigon on April 28, just 12 hours before the helicopter evacuation of Americans in Vietnamese ended. Two Marine helicopter pilots died in a crash during the airlift, making the four the last known American victims of a war that claimed more than 50,000.

Tonight Corporal Judge was memorialized in a service with Marine color and honor guards in the modern gymnasium at Marshalltown Community High School from which he was graduated less



The New York Times/Gary Settle

Henry J. Judge, right, father of Lance Cpl. Darwin L. Judge, talking with another son, Loren, and a friend, Wendell Benson, outside the Judge home in Marshalltown, Iowa. The flag flying at half staff, and the flagpole, were gifts from Corporal Judge.

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than a year ago.

But his body was not there. Last Wednesday the Pentagon notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Judge, that in the confusion of the evacuation the two bodies had been left behind.

Although the State Department has indicated that it is attempting through third parties to reach an agreement with the new government of South Vietnam for recovery of the bodies, the incident has to a new wave of criticism of the evacuation in which they were overlooked while thousands of Vietnamese were flown out.

Despite their personal loss, Henry and Ida Judge have not joined that chorus.

"We've always stood up for the Lord, our country and the flag," Mr. Judge, a 55-year-old postman, said today as he stood on his lawn near the drooping flag.

Somehow, in Marshalltown, a thriving industrial city of 26,000 amid rich farmlands 46 miles northeast of Des Moines, those words seemed to have a ring as old as the nation.

In all the years of troubles in and over Indochina, there have been men such as Henry Judge who remained unshaken in their faith in their country.

Mr. Judge, a small man who was a tail gunner on 27-B-17 missions over Europe in World War II, has only one complaint about the reaction to his son's death. Of the nearly 2,000 letters the family has received, he

explained, a few have said, "Oh, what a waste."

"These are the letters that my wife and I don't appreciate," he said, "because we're both patriotic."

And Mrs. Judge, a determined woman who devotes much of her energy to volunteer work at the Iowa Soldiers Home here, agrees.

A friend who sat with her and her husband in their bedroom for a while last night as they sought a respite from the turmoil in the crowded living room, recalled that she looked up at one point and said:

"You knowk if it's your turn to die—and only the Lord knows that—what more beautiful way to die than for your country?"

Kissinger Sees Atrocity In Events in Cambodia

ST. LOUIS, May 13 (AP)—Secretary of State Kissinger says that Cambodia is carrying out "an atrocity of major proportions" by forced marches and executions.

In a news conference here last night Mr. Kissinger said "very clear information" indicated that officers as low as the rank of second lieutenant in the defeated army and their wives were being killed and millions of Phnom Penh residents marched into rural areas where they will lack food before the November harvest.

Mr. Kissinger called the situation "a tragedy" where hospitals were emptied of the sick and wounded, who were forced to join in the evacuation.

But then, she was always proud of her son.

She was proud of the grandfather clock that he made of solid walnut in John Oldenkamp's woodworking class just before he graduated from high school; of the two times he made the Little League All Star team; of the Eagle Scout emblem she got to hang around his neck at a ceremony in January, 1972; of the money he earned on his paper route and in a supermarket and learned to save; even of the three motorcycles he bought with it.

Later she was proud when he joined the Marine Corps right out of high school and was chosen to be trained as an honor guard. And again, when he volunteered to go to Vietnam, where he had served at the United States Embassy for just over a month before he was killed.

But probably nothing pleased Ida and Henry Judge more than the flagpole Darwin made a few years ago and put up at the house they lived in before they moved last year to their new home on New Castle Road.

Darwin Judge, away in the Marine Corps, never had time to put the pole up at the new house. And when he was killed, Don Blake, a neighbor across the street, placed his own flag out at half-staff.

Ida Judge was pleased, but troubled that Darwin's flag and pole were not in place.

"My wife told the wife of one of the Legionnaires that she felt bad it wasn't up," Mr. Judge said, "and that night they put up the pole."