

Joseph Guy LaPointe, Jr.

Guy graduated from NHS in 1966, entered the army, and was sent to Vietnam where on June 2, 1969, his squadron of the 101st Airborne Division was ambushed in Quang Tin province. An army medic known to his buddies as "Doc," Sp4c. LaPointe died in combat that day just before his 21st birthday. For his valor, Guy received the Medal of Honor. The citation he received posthumously from President Lyndon Johnson described his actions as follows:

Sp4c. LaPointe distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman during a combat helicopter assault mission. Guy's patrol was advancing from the landing zone through an adjoining valley when it suddenly encountered heavy automatic weapons' fire from a large enemy force. In the initial hail of fire, two Americans were seriously wounded. Hearing a call for aid from one of them, LaPointe ran forward through heavy fire to assist his fallen comrades. To reach the wounded men, he was forced to crawl directly in view of the enemy bunker. As members of his unit provided covering fire, he administered first aid to one man, shielding the other with his body. He was hit by a burst of fire from the bunker while attending the wounded soldier.

In spite of his painful wounds, Guy continued his lifesaving duties until he was wounded again and knocked to the ground. Making strenuous efforts, he moved back again into a shielding position to continue administering first aid. An exploding enemy grenade mortally wounded all three men. Because of his gallantry and selflessness, Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr. became one of 240 men from the Vietnam War to win this prestigious honor. Since its creation by Congress during the Civil War, there have been only 3,427 recipients of this award, the highest military award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States.

Guy is survived by his mother, his wife Cindy, and their son Joseph "Joey" Guy LaPointe III. Guy's actions bring honor to Northridge and to America.