



Stanley LaFave

ALTONA — September 2000 - An Ogdensburg man on his way home from visiting the Vietnam Veterans Moving Memorial in Plattsburgh died Wednesday night when he was thrown from his motorcycle and hit a guard rail. Stanley LaFave, 51, of Ogdensburg was traveling west on Route 190 near the intersection with Forest Road. Police said he failed to negotiate a left-hand curve, left the road on the right, came back onto the highway, was ejected from his 2001 Harley Davidson and thrown into guard rails. Police said he was pronounced dead beside the highway. Robert Premo grew up with LaFave in Ogdensburg and was a close friend.

"The best thing I could say about Stan was that he was an honest, upfront friend and would do anything for you," he said. Premo said LaFave was a Vietnam veteran who served in the Marine Corps and stayed active in the reserves after his tour of duty while working as a millwright in Watertown. LaFave was also a member of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club, said Premo. Veronica Flanagan was at home on the Military Turnpike when she heard the crash. "I ran out, and my daughter called 911," she said. When the police and ambulance came, "they didn't move him for almost 2 hours," Flanagan said, "because he was already dead." Flanagan said LaFave's motorcycle was in the road in front of her driveway but that LaFave was some distance from her house on the guard rail between Forest Road and a small bridge. "One of his boots was off," she said. "I don't know if he was wearing a helmet or not." Flanagan said she suspects LaFave had donned a helmet, since a friend who had been traveling with LaFave on his own bike was holding a helmet of his own. "His friend was very, very, upset," she said. Police said they had no record of LaFave's friend, but they assume Flanagan had been wearing a helmet. Flanagan said that this is only one of many accidents on her stretch of Route 190 in the 10 years she has lived there. "This part of the road is very strange. It's like its own little Bermuda Triangle," she said. "Accidents seem to happen in this area a lot." Police are still investigating why LaFave left the road. An autopsy may reveal whether he was under the influence of alcohol. A funeral will be held for LaFave at noon Saturday at the Lalonde-Briggs-Frary Funeral Home in Ogdensburg. LaFave leaves behind his wife, two daughters and a son.