Those Left Behind

The McLellan Family
MARINE KIA: ARTHUR McLellan
CCSU Student Author: Lisa Costa

Silence
Arthea McLellan (Mother)
Nobody talked about it back then. It was a sin to talk about someone when they died and you’d get shipped or put in a closet if you did. Even Artie’s father didn’t show that it affected him. Maybe I wouldn’t have had such a hard time if he had talked to me about things, but I felt I had to carry it all by myself.

Breaking the News
Diane McLellan (Sister)
My mom knew the moment she saw the Marine’s uniform and it was horrible having to see her get that information. It was a bittersweet day. A bittersweet day.

Protecting those Left Behind
Karen McLellan (Sister)
All of us kids passed the cemetery he was buried in every day on our way to school. None of us knew that Artie was a Vietnam soldier or how he had passed away. But the only thing I knew was that the man who was my dad was dead and I couldn’t protect us from it.

Veterans History Project