

DAVID WILLIAM AYERS
is honored on Panel 8W, Row 34 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: DAVID WILLIAM AYERS
Wall Name: DAVID W AYERS
Date of Birth: 5/20/1945
Date of Casualty: 7/20/1970
Home of Record: SIMI
County of Record: SONOMA COUNTY
State: CA
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: LAOS
Casualty Province: LZ



CPT Ayers served with Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. He was killed in action while piloting a UH-1H Helicopter that was shot down in a landing zone in Laos. He had been in country for less than a month.

You are remembered after all these years

I served with David at Fort Sill in 1969. I remembered when he left for flight school. I left active duty in January of 1970 and later heard that David had been killed in action, but finding this site today made it hit home 40 years after the fact. God bless you David.

Posted by: Larry Stovall
Relationship: We served together
May 4, 2010

A Friend Remembered

I knew Dave and was the co-pilot flying the rescue aircraft on that fateful day in July 1970, Dave and I went through in-country orientation and were assigned to the same aviation company and ultimately the same mission, while I only knew him for five or so weeks I

learned he was a kind compassionate person who loved his family and country and was willing to share his experience and wisdom with others.

Posted by: Larry C Garzon
Relationship: Friend
May 31, 1999

From the wall-usa.com

A True American Hero Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice

David was a true American hero in every sense. We were classmates through flight school at Fort Wolters, Texas and Fort Rucker, Alabama. We deployed to Vietnam together and were assigned to sister aviation companies within the same aviation battalion. We were flying on the same mission when I received word of David's aircraft going down. In the chaotic environment of the moment, I immediately experienced an overwhelming feeling of emptiness as I knew I had lost a close personal friend. David was a leader who led by example. His dedication, tenacity and character were beyond reproach. This man loved and cherished his wife more than anyone could believe. He was my hero then, is more than ever my hero now, and forever will be. I salute you my brave American friend.

Ron Stokes
Friend, Classmate, Fellow Aviator
1500 Pavillon Drive
Hoover, AL 35226
March 14, 2006

From www.flyarmy.org

AYERS DAVID WILLIAM

Name: CPT David William Ayers
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 07/20/1970 while performing the duty of Pilot.
Age at death: 25.2
Date of Birth: 05/20/1945
Home City: Simi, CA
Service: FA branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.
Unit: A/101 AHB 101 ABN
Major organization: 101st Airborne Division
Flight class: 70-12
Service: FA branch of the U.S. Army.
The Wall location: 08W-034
Short Summary: Shot down, died on impact, helicopter burned before bodies could be removed.
Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 68-16550
Country: Laos

MOS: 1981 = 19 Rotary Wing Aviator (Unit Commander)
Primary cause: Hostile Fire
Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea
Compliment cause: vehicular accident
Vehicle involved: helicopter
Position in vehicle: pilot
Vehicle ownership: government
Started Tour: 06/26/1970
"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot
The initial status of this person was: hostile dead - killed out-right
Length of service: *
Reason: aircraft lost or crashed
Casualty type: Hostile - killed
married male U.S. citizen
Race: Caucasian
Religion: Episcopal (Anglican)
The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.
Category of casualty as defined by the Army: battle dead Category of personnel: active
duty Army Military class: officer
This record was last updated on 08/23/2002

Helicopter UH-1H 68-16550

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 68-16550
The Army purchased this helicopter 1269
Total flight hours at this point: 00000557
Date: 07/20/1970
Incident number: 70072020.KIA
Unit: A/101 AVN
This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY
for Command and Control
While on Landing Zone this helicopter was on the Ground at 0000 feet and 000 knots.
Classified
Helicopter took 1 hits from:
Explosive Weapon; Non-Artillery launched or static weapons containing explosive
charges. (RPG)
The helicopter was hit in the Tail Section causing Fragmentation Damage.
Systems damaged were: FLT CONTROLS, PERSONNEL, DRIVESHAFT
Casualties = 01 KIA, 02 INJ . .
Aircraft Destroyed.
Both mission and flight capability were terminated.
Destroyed by friendly forces
Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated:
Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Survivability/Vulnerability
Information Analysis Center Helicopter database. Also: OPERA, LNNF, CALTR,
CASRP, CRAFX, JSIDR (Operations Report. Lindenmuth New Format Data Base. Joint

Services Incident Damage Report. Crash Facts Message. Casualty Report.)
Loss to Inventory

Crew Members: Shot down, died on impact, A/C burned before bodies could be removed

P CPT AYERS DAVID WILLIAM KIA

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998