

DAVID LANGSTON COKER JR**Class 505-68**

DAVID LANGSTON COKER JR
is honored on Panel 4W, Row 72 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: DAVID LANGSTON COKER JR
Wall Name: DAVID L COKER JR
Date of Birth: 6/15/1946
Date of Casualty: 3/24/1971
Date of Death: 3/24/1971
Home of Record: ALEXANDRIA
County of Record: RAPIDES PARISH
State: LA
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: QUANG TRI



CPT Coker was assigned to Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized). He was shot down while flying an OH-58 Kiowa Helicopter on a reconnaissance mission while trying to help another scout aircraft that had been shot down. CPT Coker was on his second tour in Vietnam and had previously served with the 128th Assault Helicopter Company flying UH-1D and UH-1H helicopters.

David is buried at Hemphill Star Cemetery, Rapides Parish, Louisiana



From www.flyarmy.org

COKER DAVID LANGSTON JR

Name: CPT David Langston Coker, Jr.

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 03/24/1971 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 24.8

Date of Birth: 06/15/1946

Home City: Alexandria, LA

Service: AV branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: D/3/5 CAV, 5 INF

Prior Unit: 128 AHC

Major organization: 5th Infantry Division

Flight class: 69-4

Service: AV branch of the U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 04W-072

Short Summary: Shot down while trying to help another shot down scout. First tour was in 128 AHC in 69-70 flying UH-1D&H.

Aircraft: OH-58A tail number 68-16955

Call sign: Charlie Horse

Country: South Vietnam

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: 04/28/1969

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

The initial status of this person was: no previous report

Length of service: *

Location: Quang Tri Province I Corps.

Military grid coordinates of event: XD665536

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Methodist (Evangelical United Brethren)

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 09/16/1996

Helicopter OH-58A 68-16955

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-58A tail number 68-16955

The Army purchased this helicopter 0470

Total flight hours at this point: 00000573

Date: 03/24/1971

Incident number: 71032438.KIA

Unit: D/3/5 CAV 5 INF

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY

This was a Recon mission for Unarmed Recon

While in Operations Area this helicopter was Unknown at 0050 feet and 050 knots.

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: XD670543

Count of hits was not possible because the helicopter burned or exploded.

Small Arms/Automatic Weapons; Gun launched non-explosive ballistic projectiles less than 20 mm in size. (12.7MM)

Systems damaged were: PERSONNEL

Casualties = 03 DOI. .

The helicopter Crashed. Aircraft Destroyed.

Both mission and flight capability were terminated.

Burned

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, FM386, CASRP (Operations Report. Lindenmuth New Format Data Base. Casualty Report.)

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P CPT COKER DAVID LANGSTON JR KIA

CE PFC WALTERS ROBERT DANIEL KIA

OB SGT BAUER CURTIS DEAN KIA

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998