

**CHARLES ELTON FERRELL****Class 20B-67**

**CHARLES ELTON FERRELL**  
is honored on Panel 15W, Row 32 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name: CHARLES ELTON FERRELL**  
**Wall Name: CHARLES E FERRELL**  
**Date of Birth: 4/14/1940**  
**Date of Casualty: 12/6/1969**  
**Home of Record: LAWTON**  
**County of Record: COMANCHE COUNTY**  
**State: OK**  
**Branch of Service: ARMY**  
**Rank: CAPT**  
**Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM**  
**Casualty Province: KONTUM**



CPT Ferrell was serving with the 57th Assault Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Brigade at the time of his death. He was the pilot of UH-1D helicopter carrying COL George L. Miller, Senior Advisor to the 24th Special Tactical Zone and the Vietnamese Commanding Officer of the 24th Special Tactical Zone on a tour of the combat area. While taking off from a fire base the aircraft was hit by small arms fire, resulting in loss of power at a low altitude above thick jungle canopy. The crash killed all on board. The co-pilot on the mission was 1LT Phillip John Schrock, a graduate of Field Artillery OCS Class 510-68.

**Classmate**

A Great Guy!  
A Great Leader!  
A Fellow Classmate!  
OCS Class 67-20B

Posted by: Mel Moffitt  
Relationship: We served together  
February 22, 2004

Charles is buried in Ft Bliss National Cemetery ,El Paso County, Texas  
Section 1 Site 632

**From www.flyarmy.org**

**FERRELL CHARLES ELTON**

Name: CPT Charles Elton Ferrell

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 12/06/1969 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 29.6

Date of Birth: 04/14/1940

Home City: Lawton, OK

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

Unit: 57 AHC

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 68-14/68-22

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

The Wall location: 15W-032

Aircraft: UH-1D tail number 66-16699

Call sign: Gladiator

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: fire or burns

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: aircraft commander

Started Tour: 01/29/1969

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

Length of service: 12

Location: Kontum Province II Corps.

Military grid coordinates of event: ZB036029

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Protestant - no denominational preference

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 04/18/1998

## Helicopter UH-1D 66-16699

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1D tail number 66-16699

The Army purchased this helicopter 0867

Total flight hours at this point: 00001975

Date: 12/06/69

Incident number: 69120657.KIA

Unit: 57 AHC

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: ZB036029

Casualties = 05 KIA . .

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated: Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Also: OPERA, Unit history (Operations Report. )

Summary: Hit by small arms fire, resulting in loss of power at a low altitude above thick jungle canopy.

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

AC 1LT SCHROCK PHILIP JOHN KIA

**P CPT FERRELL CHARLES ELTON KIA**

CE SP5 MIRANDA PETER KALANI KIA

G PFC DURFLINGER ROLLAND LEON KIA

Passengers:

COL MILLER GEORGE LIVINGSTON, AR, PX, KIA;

War Story:

The 57th AHC's unit history states that Aircraft 699, commanded by CPT Charles Ferrell, and pilot, 1LT Phillip Shrock, with the crew chief SP5 Miranda and gunner PFC Ronald Durflinger crashed, killing the crew and given passengers aboard. It is believed that the aircraft was hit by small arms fire, resulting in loss of power at a low altitude above thick jungle canopy. The VHPA asked members of the 57th Association for help with the phrase "given passengers" because The WALL database lists only five KIAs in Kontum Prov for this date. This includes the four crew member plus COL Miller. COL Miller's organization code indicates he was assigned to MACV. Former members of the 57th AHC provided the following ideas. The events surrounding this accident are a very dark day for the 57th. CPT Ferrell was about to DEROS and he had never flown as AC or PIC. He was a member of the Second Lift Platoon. CPT Wong was the platoon leader at this time. The night before, Ferrell made out his platoon's schedule for the next day and put himself up to fly left seat without Wong's knowledge or approval. The mission was flown for the Kontum Sector which was a cream-puff mission. You just flew the advisors around to Montagnard villages. Ferrell was taking off from a fire base or some place high on a hill. He was so overloaded that he crashed on takeoff down a steep cliff. The phrase "given passengers" probably should read "eleven passengers" because they were stacked in the Huey, shoulder to shoulder. Apparently the only American passenger was a MACV full colonel who may have been the Sector commander. This was a high profile accident.

This record was last updated on 06/14/98

George Miller - Senior Advisor to the 24th Special Tactical Zone in Vietnam. He was accompanying his advisee, the Commanding Officer of the 24th Special Tactical Zone in a tour of the combat area, when their helicopter was shot down by hostile fire.