

## PETER CHARLES FORAME

Class 21-70

**PETER CHARLES FORAME**  
is honored on Panel 2W, Row 89 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** PETER CHARLES FORAME  
**Wall Name:** PETER C FORAME  
**Date of Birth:** 5/21/1947  
**Date of Casualty:** 12/19/1971  
**Home of Record:** MCLEAN  
**County of Record:** FAIRFAX COUNTY  
**State:** VA  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** CAMBODIA  
**Casualty Province:**  
**Status:** MIA



1LT Forame was piloting an OH-6A scout helicopter on a Bomb Damage Assessment (BDA) mission southeast of Dambe, Cambodia. The helicopter was hit by .51 and .30 caliber machine gun fire and crashed into a tree line. The helicopter exploded upon impact and was completely destroyed by fire in a short time. Two other helicopters attempted to recover LT. Forame and the other pilot WO1 Thomas W. Skiles, but were driven off by heavy automatic weapon fire and rocket propelled grenades, with one helicopter suffering extensive damage. After helicopter gunships arrived to suppress the enemy fire, it was verified that the downed helicopter was destroyed and that there were no survivors. Further attempts to recover the pilots were unsuccessful despite numerous airstrikes on known and suspected enemy positions.

### 21-70 Field Artillery OCS

Pete, you and I were classmates in OCS. I recall your continual desire to fly. I remember the shock and tears when I saw you were missing. I miss you buddy

Posted by: Frank Gorman  
Relationship: We served together  
August 26, 2008

## Blackhorse, Sir!

I served with Lt. Forame in Vietnam with the 11th Cav. I spoke with him that morning before he flew off on his mission. I always had hoped that he and Thomas Skiles had somehow made it through. He gave everything he had and all he would ever have. What a supreme sacrifice. Allons!

Posted by: George Aaron Wilson  
Relationship: Fellow Trooper  
October 14, 2002





**From thewall-usa.com**

Flying in scout helicopter with Warrant Officer Skiles- aircraft was hit by RPG round and crashed. Neither of you made it. We tried so hard to get down to retrieve you two, but the intense fire from a nearby wood line was just too much. An air strike was called in to take care of the enemy. When we returned to extract you all we found was a bomb crater where the aircraft once was. You and Skiles had joked around with me early that morning giving me a hard time and sharing a few laughs together. I have been blessed to have known a real HERO. Still today as everyday for almost 30 years my first waking thought is how lucky I am to enjoy life every hour, every minute, every moment and be a happy spirited person and love and laugh with all of those around me everyday. To my courageous and fearless friend, goodbye, may God bless you! I will ALWAYS remember you. George

George Aaron Wilson  
Friend and colleague in same unit in Vietnam War  
June 3, 1999

**From www.flyarmy.org**

**FORAME PETER CHARLES**

Name: 1LT Peter Charles Forame

Status: Body Not Recovered from an incident on 12/19/1971 while performing the duty of Aircraft Commander.

Age at death: 24.6

Date of Birth: 05/21/1947

Home City: Mc Lean, VA

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

Unit: ACT/11 ACR

Major organization: 11th Armored Cavalry

Flight class: 71-20

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

The Wall location: 02W-089

Short Summary: Shot down by 30 & 50 cal and burned.

Aircraft: OH-6A tail number 67-16347

SSN: 225660709

Country: Cambodia

MOS: 1981 = 19 Rotary Wing Aviator (Unit Commander)

Primary cause: Cambodia-BNR

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: small arms fire

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: co-pilot

Vehicle ownership: government

Started Tour: 09/05/1971

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

The initial status of this person was: missing in action - interim

Length of service: \*

Military grid coordinates of event: XU026248

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - died while missing

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Roman Catholic

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 08/20/1995

## **Helicopter OH-6A 67-16347**

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A tail number 67-16347

The Army purchased this helicopter 0968

Total flight hours at this point: 00001726

Date: 12/19/1971 MIA-POW file reference number: 1787

Incident number: 71121910.KIA

Unit: 11 ACR

Cambodia

UTM grid coordinates: XU026248

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated:

Defense Intelligence Agency Reference Notes. Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Also: 1787 ()

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

**AC 1LT FORAME PETER CHARLES BNR**

P WO1 SKILES THOMAS WILLIAM BNR

REFNO Synopsis:

SYNOPSIS: On December 19, 1971, W1 Thomas W. Skiles was the pilot and 1Lt. Peter C. Forame the co-pilot on board an OH6A helicopter (tail #67-16347) on a bomb damage assessment mission southeast of Bambe, Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. During the mission, the helicopter began receiving heavy 30 and 51 caliber automatic weapons fire and in attempting to climb, the helicopter turned and burst into flames. The aircraft passed over an open area and crashed into a tree line, exploded on impact, and was completely destroyed by fire in a very short time. Two other helicopters immediately flew near the crash site to search for survivors, but these aircraft were driven away by RPG and automatic weapons fire. One of the helicopters suffered extensive damage. A short time later, gunships were called in to suppress the enemy fire. A scout helicopter crew reported that the Forame/Skiles helicopter was destroyed by fire, and that they had spotted two burned bodies near the aircraft. The remainder of the day, air strikes were conducted, and the following day, another attempt to recover the remains was made. This helicopter was shot down and one of the recovery crewmen was critically wounded. On December 22 and 23, extensive air strikes were conducted in the general area to include B52 strikes. In the same hot region of Cambodia, two had died, and one had been critically wounded by enemy fire trying to bring out the bodies of comrades. The combined military service branches did their best to see that another American life was not taken at this location.

This record was last updated on 08/22/1900

## **Still Serving in Southeast Asia**

by Brigadier General Terry L Tucker 56th  
Colonel of Blackhorse

I recently returned from the 11 ACVVC and Blackhorse Reunion in San Diego California-- What a great weekend many other 11 ACR veterans and I had. Thanks for inviting me to participate.

For the past 2 years, I have been privileged to command Joint Task Force "Full Accounting".

In that assignment I led 160 outstanding men and women from all services on a mission to achieve the fullest possible accounting of Americans still unaccounted-for as a result of the war in Southeast Asia.

We conducted over 1,000 investigations and 125 recovery operations and brought home 67 Americans to their families in that 2 years. Let me tell you about one case that I shared with my brother Blackhorse troopers at the July reunion.

In January 1998, we investigated the site of a 19 December 1971 OH-6 helicopter crash in central Cambodia.

In March 1999, we excavated that crashed site. The recovery team did not find remains of the crew. However, they did find several items of personal effects. Found were a military identification card and part of another card with an unidentified sticker on it. The recovery team could clearly identify the photograph and name on the Identification Card, but could not identify the sticker on the second card. Upon my arrival, several possible explanations were offered as to what the sticker might be. After listening to their speculation, I opened my wallet, removed my Blackhorse Association Membership Card, and showed them the exact symbol they were trying to figure out. It was a Blackhorse patch.

The crew of that OH-6 was 1LT Peter Forame and WO1 Thomas Skiles, Air Cavalry Troop, 11 ACR, two of the last Blackhorse troopers to die in Southeast Asia.

Many of you knew troopers Forame and Skiles. Some of you fought with them in Vietnam and Cambodia, and a few of you were there on 19 December 1971, in Dambe, Cambodia. I had the honor of none of these. However, 1LT Forame and WO1 Skiles stay with me; I think of them frequently. Although we may never recover their remains, we can never forget their sacrifice. Annual Reunions should continue to remind us that 768 Blackhorse troopers did not come home. And, we should remember that until 1LT Peter Forame and WO1 Thomas Skiles (Air Troop, 11 ACR) come home, the Blackhorse continues to serve in Southeast Asia.