

**WILLIAM E LEATHERWOOD JR****CLASS 9-65**

is honored on Panel 5E, Row 42 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** WILLIAM E LEATHERWOOD JR  
**Wall Name:** WILLIAM E LEATHERWOOD JR  
**Date of Birth:** 1/29/1940  
**Date of Casualty:** 2/17/1966  
**Date of Death:** 2/17/1966  
**Home of Record:** CARROLLTON  
**State:** AL  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 2LT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** PR & MR UNKNOWN



2LT Leatherwood lost his life during a document courier run, when the Marine UH-34D helicopter he was riding in crashed just after take-off from Phu Bai airfield. He was serving with the 8th Radio Research Field Station (RRFS), 509<sup>th</sup> Army Security Agency Group at the time of his death.

**Friend and Fellow Soldier**

We became friends in OCS. Doesn't take long to become close friends in the military. I have carried your memory with me for all these years. It means a lot to finally be able say goodbye. You are my hero.

Posted by: Jack Sturtevant 11-65  
April 21, 2009

***From [www.thewall-usa.com](http://www.thewall-usa.com)***

Lt Leatherwood was a well liked member of our unit. He was easy going with his fellow soldiers but still managed to get the job done. When he was killed it was a sad day and a shock for all of us who had known him. This son of America was a credit to her and to all who knew and loved him. He was so very easy to like.

Larry James  
4995 Lambs Road #14A  
N. Charleston, SC 29418  
October 17, 2004

**From www.flyarmy.org**

## **Helicopter UH-34D 149380**

Information on U.S. Marine Corps helicopter UH-34D tail number 149380

Date: 02/17/1966

Incident number: 66021717.KIA

Unit: HMM-163

South Vietnam

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

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

G CPL HEBERT CALVIN RAYMOND JR KIA

CE SGT ANDERSON

Passengers and/or other participants:

**2LT LEATHERWOOD WILLIAM E JR, AR, PX, KIA**

War Story:

I had just landed on the runway at Phu Bai when I noticed an H-34 which had just departed to the south coming back down rapidly. The rotor blades were coning and rotor RPM was deteriorating. It crashed hard at about mid-runway and rolled to the left and burst into flame. I instructed my crew chief to push the army officers we were transporting out, after which I flew forward and landed on the left side of the burning helicopter, first on the scene. My crew, including co-pilot, exited and tried to assist survivors. I lifted into a hover and moved on top of the burning ship to try to beat down the flames. I remained there until the crash crew was on scene and the M-60 ammo began to cook off. I later heard that the accident was caused by a ratchet type situation. When the co-pilot reduced mixture from full rich to normal, the fuel supply actually went to cut-off. The pilots and crew chief survived. The only other fatality was an army 2nd Lt. passenger. They probably got to about 300' before the power loss. I think they all got out on their own. Submitted by Norm Urban, HMM-163 Cpl Hebert, HMM 163, early summer 1966 (Lt. Col. House was CO) Hue Phu Bai. Aircraft took off, at 52" mixture was pulled back to normal, engine quit, aircraft crashed. Crew received bad burns. Crew Chief - Sgt Anderson, gunner- Cpl Hebert Med. Evac. Cpl Hebert died of burns stateside. I believe in Naval Hospital San Francisco or Oakland area.

Submitted by John Greshle, HMM-163