

## THOMAS STOKES POWELL

Class 11-67

is honored on Panel 1W, Row 3 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** THOMAS STOKES POWELL  
**Wall Name:** THOMAS S POWELL  
**Date of Birth:** 9/17/1942  
**Date of Casualty:** 4/19/1972  
**Home of Record:** ATHENS  
**County of Record:** HENDERSON COUNTY  
**State:** TX  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** CAPT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** PLEIKU



CPT Powell was a serving with H Troop, 10th Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade. He was shot down while flying an OH-6A helicopter on a reconnaissance mission against a reported brigade size enemy force southwest of Pleiku.

### Tribute to a Fallen Comrade

Tom Powell was my "cube mate" during the months we went through Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Ft Sill, Oklahoma. He was a graduate of class USAAMOCS 11-67 in March 1967, and later trained as a helicopter pilot. During the time I knew him, he impressed me with his belief in God, his integrity and his devotion to duty. He was a good man and soldier. He paid the ultimate price for our freedom, and I am grateful for his service, and sad that he was called to sacrifice.

Posted by: Patrick Stephens  
Relationship: We served together  
July 25, 2006

### *A Note from The Virtual Wall*

When the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry was preparing to depart Vietnam in April 1972, the assets of C Troop 7/17 were used to form an air cavalry troop - H Troop, 10th Cavalry. The new unit suffered its first losses on 19 Apr 1972 when two men were killed when their OH-6A helicopter (tail number 67-16499) was shot down while on a recon mission southwest of Pleiku: CPT Thomas Stokes Powell, pilot, and SP4 Paul John Pesce, observer.

## **POWELL THOMAS STOKES**

Name: CPT Thomas Stokes Powell

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 04/19/1972 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 29.6

Date of Birth: 09/17/1942

Home City: Athens, TX

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

Unit: H/10 CAV

Prior Unit: C/7/17 CAV 71

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 68-4

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

The Wall location: 01W-003

Short Summary: Recon mission southwest of Pleiku against reported NVA brigade. 8 mm arms fire, crashed & burned. Last words "taking fire, taking fire!"

Aircraft: OH-6A tail number 67-16499

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 61204

Primary cause: Hostile Fire

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: small arms fire

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Vehicle ownership: government

Started Tour: 09/27/1971

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

The initial status of this person was: no previous report

Length of service: \*

Location: Pleiku Province II Corps.

Military grid coordinates of event: AR982348

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Baptist - other groups

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 03/27/2000

## Helicopter OH-6A 67-16499

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A tail number 67-16499

The Army purchased this helicopter 1268

Total flight hours at this point: 00001634

Date: 04/19/1972

Incident number: 72041928.KIA

Unit: H/10 CAV

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: AR974346

Casualties = 02 DOI . .

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

Summary: Recon mission southwest of Pleiku against reported NVA brigade. 8 mm arms fire, crashed & burned. Last words "taking fire, taking fire!"

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

**P CPT POWELL THOMAS STOKES KIA**

OB SP4 PESCE PAUL JOHN KIA

This record was last updated on 03/27/2000



**Thomas is buried at Oaklawn Memorial Park, Athens, Henderson County, Texas**