

## DAVID WILLIAM AYERS

Class 15-67

**DAVID WILLIAM AYERS**  
is honored on Panel 8W, Row 34 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** DAVID WILLIAM AYERS  
**Wall Name:** DAVID W AYERS  
**Date of Birth:** 5/20/1945  
**Date of Casualty:** 7/20/1970  
**Home of Record:** SIMI  
**County of Record:** SONOMA COUNTY  
**State:** CA  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** CAPT  
**Casualty Country:** LAOS  
**Casualty Province:** LZ



CPT Ayers served with Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. He was killed in action while piloting a UH-1H Helicopter that was shot down in a landing zone in Laos. He had been in country for less than a month.

### You are remembered after all these years

I served with David at Fort Sill in 1969. I remembered when he left for flight school. I left active duty in January of 1970 and later heard that David had been killed in action, but finding this site today made it hit home 40 years after the fact. God bless you David.

Posted by: Larry Stovall  
Relationship: We served together  
May 4, 2010

### A Friend Remembered

I knew Dave and was the co-pilot flying the rescue aircraft on that fateful day in July 1970, Dave and I went through in-country orientation and were assigned to the same aviation company and ultimately the same mission, while I only knew him for five or so weeks I learned he was a kind compassionate person who loved his family and country and was willing to share his experience and wisdom with others.

Posted by: Larry C Garzon  
Relationship: Friend  
May 31, 1999

**From the wall-usa.com**

**A True American Hero Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice**

David was a true American hero in every sense. We were classmates through flight school at Fort Wolters, Texas and Fort Rucker, Alabama. We deployed to Vietnam together and were assigned to sister aviation companies within the same aviation battalion. We were flying on the same mission when I received word of David's aircraft going down. In the chaotic environment of the moment, I immediately experienced an overwhelming feeling of emptiness as I knew I had lost a close personal friend. David was a leader who led by example. His dedication, tenacity and character were beyond reproach. This man loved and cherished his wife more than anyone could believe. He was my hero then, is more than ever my hero now, and forever will be. I salute you my brave American friend.

Ron Stokes  
Friend, Classmate, Fellow Aviator  
1500 Pavillon Drive  
Hoover, AL 35226  
March 14, 2006

**From www.flyarmy.org**

**AYERS DAVID WILLIAM**

Name: CPT David William Ayers  
Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 07/20/1970 while performing the duty of Pilot.  
Age at death: 25.2  
Date of Birth: 05/20/1945  
Home City: Simi, CA  
Service: FA branch of the reserve component of the U.S. Army.  
Unit: A/101 AHB 101 ABN  
Major organization: 101st Airborne Division  
Flight class: 70-12  
Service: FA branch of the U.S. Army.  
The Wall location: 08W-034  
Short Summary: Shot down, died on impact, helicopter burned before bodies could be removed.  
Aircraft: UH-1H tail number 68-16550  
Country: Laos  
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: 06/26/1970  
"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot  
The initial status of this person was: hostile dead - killed out-right  
Length of service: \*  
Reason: aircraft lost or crashed  
Casualty type: Hostile - killed  
married male U.S. citizen  
Race: Caucasian  
Religion: Episcopal (Anglican)  
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 08/23/2002

### **Helicopter UH-1H 68-16550**

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H tail number 68-16550  
The Army purchased this helicopter 1269  
Total flight hours at this point: 00000557  
Date: 07/20/1970  
Incident number: 70072020.KIA  
Unit: A/101 AVN  
This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY  
for Command and Control  
While on Landing Zone this helicopter was on the Ground at 0000 feet and 000 knots.  
Classified  
Helicopter took 1 hits from:  
Explosive Weapon; Non-Artillery launched or static weapons containing explosive  
charges. (RPG)  
The helicopter was hit in the Tail Section causing Fragmentation Damage.  
Systems damaged were: FLT CONTROLS, PERSONNEL, DRIVESHAFT  
Casualties = 01 KIA, 02 INJ . .  
Aircraft Destroyed.  
Both mission and flight capability were terminated.  
Destroyed by friendly forces  
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, CALTR,  
CASRP, CRAFX, JSIDR (Operations Report. Lindenmuth New Format Data Base. Joint  
Services Incident Damage Report. Crash Facts Message. Casualty Report. )  
Loss to Inventory  
Crew Members: Shot down, died on impact, A/C burned before bodies could be  
removed  
**P CPT AYERS DAVID WILLIAM KIA**  
This record was last updated on 05/25/1998