

DAVID RAY BLACKBURN

CLASS 14-66

is honored on Panel 30E, Row 82 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: DAVID RAY BLACKBURN
Wall Name: DAVID R BLACKBURN
Date of Birth: 6/30/1944
Date of Casualty: 11/28/1967
Home of Record: COCOA BEACH
State: FL
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: DINH TUONG



1LT Blackburn was the pilot of an OH-23G (Raven) Helicopter that was shot down while performing an aerial observation mission for Division Artillery, 9th Infantry Division. 1LT Edward R. Naylor Jr., a graduate of Field Artillery OCS Class 15-66 was the artillery observer on the mission and was also killed in the incident.

OCS CLASS MATE

DAVID AND I WERE OCS CLASS MATES. MY WIFE MARIAN AND OLDEST DAUGHTER LAURIE HAD A HOUSE IN LAWTON WHILE WE WERE IN OCS. DAVID WOULD SOMETIMES STAY OVERNIGHT WHEN WE COULD GET PASSES. DAVID HAD A DATSON FIRELADY SPORTS CAR. IT WAS FUN TO RIDE IN. I THINK OF HIM OFTEN AND WILL NEVER FORGET HIM. DAVID WAS A GREAT FRIEND. I HAVE BEEN TO THE WALL TWICE. ON MY FIRST TRIP I LEFT DAVIDS CALLING CARD FROM OCS AT THE BASE OF THE PANEL WHICH BEARS HIS NAME. I HAVE FOUND OUT RECENTLY THHT HE IS BURIED IN DENVER, CO. SINCE I LIVE IN COLO. SPGS. CO. I HOPE TO VIIT HIS GRAVESITE SOON.

Posted by: ERROL PAIGE LANIER
June 3, 2007

OCS Classmates

Dave and I were classmates at OCS. We then stayed at Ft Sill waiting for flight school acceptance. He made it I did not. He was a good friend. I have visited the wall and said hello on several occasions. A rubbing of his name is framed in my office.

Posted by: LTC Ned Matich, USA (Ret)
June 2, 2007

From www.flyarmy.org

BLACKBURN DAVID RAY

Name: 1LT David Ray Blackburn

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 11/28/1967 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 23.4

Date of Birth: 06/30/1944

Home City: Cocoa Beach, FL

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

Unit: DIV ARTY 9 INF

Major organization: 9th Infantry Division

Flight class: 67-10

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

The Wall location: 30E-100

Short Summary: Speculate he may have been flying too close to the gun target line and shot himself down. Had been with DIVERTY only a week or so.

Aircraft: OH-23G tail number 63-12823

Service number: O5420306

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: weapons

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Started Tour: 08/14/1967

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

Length of service: 02

Location: Dinh Tuong Province IV Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Methodist (Evangelical United Brethren)

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 08/27/1997

Helicopter OH-23G 63-12823

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-23G tail number 63-12823

Date: 11/28/1967

Incident number: 67112828.KIA

Unit: 9 INF DIVERTY

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY for Artillery Adjustment

While in Operations Area this helicopter was in Orbit at 1200 feet and 040 knots.

The station for this helicopter was Dinh Tuong in South Vietnam

Helicopter took 2 hits from:

Small Arms/Automatic Weapons; Gun launched non-explosive ballistic projectiles less than 20 mm in size. (7.62MM)

The helicopter was hit in the Main Rotor Blade System

Systems damaged were: TRANSMISSION, MAIN ROTOR SYS, PERSONNEL

Casualties = 02 DOI . .

The helicopter Crashed. Aircraft Destroyed.

Both mission and flight capability were terminated.

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, FM232, CASRP (Operations Report. Lindenmuth New Format Data Base. Casualty Report.)

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P 1LT BLACKBURN DAVID RAY KIA

OB 1LT NAYLOR EDWARD REYNOLDS JR KIA

War Story:

Sources indicate to the VHPA that these two men died in Dinh Tuong Province in the same aircraft while serving for a unit of the 9th Inf Div. The VHPA is very interested in knowing more about this event.

This record was last updated on 05/25/1998