

**HERBERT CHARLES CROSBY****Class 39-67**

**HERBERT CHARLES CROSBY**  
is honored on Panel 14W, Row 22 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** HERBERT CHARLES CROSBY  
**Wall Name:** HERBERT C CROSBY  
**Date of Birth:** 5/30/1947  
**Date of Casualty:** 1/10/1970  
**Home of Record:** FT SILL  
**County of Record:** CADDO COUNTY  
**State:** OK  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** CAPT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** QUANG TIN  
**Status:** MIA



CPT Crosby was serving with the 71st Assault Helicopter Company, 15th Aviation Battalion, 16th Aviation Group, Americal Division. On 10 Jan 1970, he was piloting a UH-1C helicopter as the lead aircraft in a flight of three returning from Tien Phuoc located approximately 25 miles north-northwest of Chu Lai, Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

Approximately five minutes after departing Tien Phuoc and in accordance with instrument flight directives, CPT Crosby directed the flight to change headings to a southeasterly one. Ten minutes into the flight all radio contact with CPT Crosby's aircraft was lost. The other two helicopters reached Chu Lai heliport without incident.

When it was determined that the lead helicopter was overdue, an extensive ground and visual/electronic aerial search was initiated. The Huey's last known position placed it over dense jungle covered mountain foothills on the north side of the mountain range with rice fields within 2 miles to the east. The ground search included investigating villages in and around the helicopter's flight path and questioning anyone who might have knowledge of the aircraft's loss and the fate of its crew. At the time the formal search and rescue (SAR) operation was terminated, CPT Crosby and the other three crew members were listed as Missing in Action.

On 5 November 1974 he was listed as died while missing. His remains were repatriated January 1989, however, positive identification did not happen until 2006. The family decided to bury his remains as close to his birthday as possible. So on Friday, May 25, 2007, he was finally laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

## My Best Buddy

Herb was my best buddy, although I only knew him less than three years. He was handsome, great fun to be with, and he loved fast boats and cars. His loss (only about a month before the end of his tour) took a piece of my heart away. But I will never forget our good times together.

Posted by: John Borden  
Relationship: We served together  
October 7, 2005

### From a Newspaper article 1970

Capt. Herbert C. Crosby, of Donalsonville, Ga. and Nina Blackburn were married November 3, 1969. It was a spur of the moment wedding during Crosby's rest and relaxation period. They were married on Monday and he had to go back to Vietnam on Thursday. They both thought he would return in just a few months, and then they'd start their lives together. He had his orders to be at Fort Rucker when he came back as an instructor pilot. But just two months later on Jan. 10, 1970, he was returning to his base at Chu Lai, South Vietnam aboard a UH-1C Huey helicopter. Due to bad weather, his helicopter went down over Quang Nam Province. A search was initiated for the crew, but no sign of the helicopter or crew was spotted.



**From www.pownetwork.org**

**CROSBY, HERBERT CHARLES**

Remains Identification announced 12/19/2006

Name: Herbert Charles Crosby

Rank/Branch: O3/US Army

Unit: 71st Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion, 16th Aviation Group,  
23rd Infantry Division (Americal), Chu Lai

Date of Birth: 30 May 1947 (Ft. Wayne IN)

Home City of Record: South Georgia

Date of Loss: 10 January 1970

Country of Loss: South Vietnam

Loss Coordinates: 152927N 1081808E (BT239141)

Status (in 1973): Missing In Action

Category: 4

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: UH1C, "Firebirds"

Incident # 1547

Other Personnel In Incident: George A. Howes; Wayne C. Allen; Francis G.  
Graziosi (all missing)

Source: Compiled by Homecoming II Project 01 April 1991 from one  
or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources,  
correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Updated  
by the P.O.W. NETWORK with information from David Grieger, who served with  
Herbert Crosby.

**REMARKS:**

**SYNOPSIS:** On January 10, 1970, Capt. Herbert C. Crosby, pilot; WO George A.  
Howes, co-pilot; SP5 Wayne C. Allen, crew chief; and SP4 Francis G. Graziosi,  
door gunner; were flying a UH1C helicopter (serial #66-739) as the flight lead  
in a flight of three helicopter gunships returning from Tien Phuoc to the  
unit base at Chu Lai, South Vietnam.

(NOTE: Records differs as to the aircraft type on this incident. Some records show the  
aircraft type this crew was flying as UH1H, and some show it as a UH1C. Herbert  
Crosby flew Charlie models every day from at least July 1969 to January 1970. The  
serial number, #66-739 correlates to a C model, the first two numbers indicating that the  
aircraft had been made in 1966, and the H model only had come out a few months  
before this time. Although C models were gunships, and usually flew more or less  
independently, while this aircraft was flying in tight formation as flight lead, which would  
correlate with the H model, it has been confirmed that the ship on which this crew was  
flying was definitely a Charlie model.)

At 1300 hours, the three helicopters departed the Special Forces camp at Tien Phuoc.  
Five to ten minutes later, due to instrument flight rules, Capt. Crosby directed the flight  
to change to a different flight heading. When the helicopters changed frequencies to  
contact Chu Lai ground control approach, radio contact was lost with Capt. Crosby and  
was not regained. The other two aircraft reached Chu Lai heliport, and at 1400 hours,  
search efforts were begun for the missing aircraft, although the crew was not found.

According to a 1974 National League of Families report, George Howes survived the crash of this helicopter. The report further maintains that the loss occurred in Laos, although the coordinates place it some 40-odd miles from that country.

A North Vietnamese prisoner released later reported that he had seen Howes in captivity the same month the helicopter went down. A second sighting by a villager in Phuoc Chouc (or Phouc Chau) village reported Howes and two other POWs stopped for water at his house in February, 1970, en route to Laos.

Whether these reports also relate to Allen, Crosby and Graziosi, is unknown. When the last American troops left Southeast Asia in 1975, some 2500 Americans were unaccounted for. Reports received by the U.S. Government since that time build a strong case for belief that hundreds of these "unaccounted for" Americans are still alive and in captivity.

"Unaccounted for" is a term that should apply to numbers, not men. We, as a nation, owe these men our best effort to find them and bring them home. Until the fates of the men like the UH1C crew are known, their families will wonder if they are dead or alive and why they were deserted.

## **NEWS RELEASES from the United States Department of Defense**

### **No. 1294-06 IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 19, 2006**

**Soldiers Missing In Action From Vietnam War are Identified**

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Capt. Herbert C. Crosby, of Donalsonville, Ga.; Sgt. 1st Class Wayne C. Allen, of Tewksbury, Mass.; and Sgt. 1st Class Francis G. Graziosi, of Rochester, N.Y.; all U.S. Army. Burial dates and locations are being set by their families.

Representatives from the Army met with the next-of-kin of these men to explain the recovery and identification process, and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

On Jan. 10, 1970, these men were returning to their base at Chu Lai, South Vietnam aboard a UH-1C Huey helicopter. Due to bad weather, their helicopter went down over Quang Nam Province. A search was initiated for the crew, but no sign of the helicopter or crew was spotted. In 1989, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) gave to U.S. specialists 25 boxes containing the remains of the U.S. servicemen related to this incident. Later that year, additional remains and Crosby's identification tag were obtained from a Vietnamese refugee.

Between 1993 and 1999, joint U.S./S.R.V. teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted three investigations in Ho Chi Minh City and two investigations in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province (formerly Quang Nam Province). A Vietnamese informant in Ho Chi Minh City told the team he knew where the remains of as many as nine American servicemen were buried. He agreed to lead the team to the burial site. In 1994, the team excavated the site and recovered a metal box and several bags containing human remains, including those of these three soldiers. Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the remains.



## **Letter from Mary Lou Wade (sister of CPT Herbert Crosby)**

**December 31, 2006**

**Dear Rattlers and Firebirds,**

I'm the younger sister of Capt. Herbert (Herby) Crosby. I've been reading and enjoying your web site for days now. I was contacted by Ron Seabolt recently and was so elated by the wealth of information he gave me. I have since been referring the web site to everyone I talk with from media to friends and family. It's truly a great site, with huge significance to me and our family.

Ron put me in touch with a couple people who knew and/or flew with Herby while in Vietnam. I had a wonderful conversation with Col. Broome (Whiz) recently and was so happy to talk with someone who knew Herby then. Col. Broome agreed to officiate the services at Arlington National Cemetery in May for us. We feel so honored to have him do this ? means so much to us and I know Herby would have wanted him also. Thank you Whiz.

The specific date has not been set yet, and we may not get official word until March 2007. We have requested Friday, May 25th, then, if that's not available, Friday, May 18th, and third choice May 11th. As soon as I receive word of the date and verify times I'll notify Ron Seabolt in order to spread the news. Our family will be very honored to have any and all of you attend. It is so very touching to know that you all care. What a family of friends you are! We have family and friends who are also coming which will be a great tribute to Herby and I'm sure they will also be delighted to meet with you.

We chose May for a couple reasons. Herby was born on traditional Memorial Day (May 30, 1947) and when a young boy always thought that the flags and parades were for him on his birthday. My father died on observed Memorial Day in 1991 (May 27th). Our family has always been patriotic, with having my father a World War II vet, and with Herby an Army pilot. We'd like to honor him as close to Memorial Day as possible. Our mother is 88 so traveling in the warmer months would be better for her also. She lives with me and my husband in Titusville.

We never gave up hope, and you didn't either. We also will never give up hope for the remaining families awaiting word about their loved one. We have been contacted by people who wore one of the POW/MIA bracelets with his name on it who want to return it to us. There are so many out-reach things going on which is wonderful. We're in the process of starting a scholarship fund (The Cpt. Herbert C. Crosby Scholarship) at Embry-Riddle Aeronautics University in Daytona Beach, Florida, in his honor. I meet with the scholarship committee next week to set criteria, etc. Will let you all know more about this later. I am so looking forward to meeting any and all of you who attend at Arlington, or to talk with you on the phone. You are welcome to contact me at [mlwade@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mlwade@cfl.rr.com).

Our family has been truly blessed and we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. We thank you for your support, your service to our country and our freedom. You are all honored and respected by us.

God Bless!

Mary Lou Wade

**From www.flyarmy.org**

**CROSBY HERBERT CHARLES**

Click here for more information about this incident

Name: CPT Herbert Charles Crosby

Status: Remains were returned on 12/06 from an incident on 01/10/1970 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Declared dead on 11/05/1974.

Age at death: 22.6

Date of Birth: 05/30/1947

Home City: Ft Sill, OK

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

Unit: 71 AHC, 14 CAB

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 68-22

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

The Wall location: 14W-022

Short Summary: IFR in rain in 196 AO crashed S. China Sea Father spent life savings going to Vietnam two times trying to learn what happened. See Howes

Aircraft: UH-1C tail number 66-00739

Call sign: Firebird 96

Service number: O5430922

Country: South Vietnam

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

Primary cause: SVN-BNR

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: unknown or not reported

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Vehicle ownership: government

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

The initial status of this person was: non-hostile missing - bonified

Length of service: \*

Location: Quang Tin Province I Corps.

Military grid coordinates of event: BT107143

Additional information about this casualty:

DNA testing of remains returned to the US in 1989 from Vietnam have been positively identified as Captain Herbert Crosby, MIA for 36 years. A Department of Defense press release says Captain Crosby, then 22, and two crewmen were flying aboard a UH-1C Huey helicopter back to their base in Chu Lai in 1970 when it went down in bad weather over Quang Nam Province in the country's southern region. A search and rescue effort by the Army was hampered by the rugged terrain and thick jungle. A Vietnamese refugee and the Vietnamese government returned crash-related items, including human remains and Captain Crosby's dog tags, to US specialists in 1989. Further excavation of

the crash site in 1994 produced more remains. Earlier this month officials with the Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office ordered cross-matching of DNA from the remains found with that of Captain Crosby's two sisters. Scientists with the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory were able to make a positive identification. DNA tests had already identified the remains of two crewmen who were flying with Crosby: Sergeant First Class Wayne C. Allen, and Sergeant First Class Francis G. Graziosi.

He was in the gun platoon of the 'Rattlers' and from GA not OK. He was an artillery RLO so he put home of record as Ft Sill, OK. From Dave Grieger.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died while missing  
married male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Protestant - no denominational preference

The following information secondary, but may help in explaining this incident.

Category of casualty as defined by the Army: non-battle dead Category of personnel:  
active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 11/08/2008

### **Helicopter UH-1C 66-00739**

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1C tail number 66-00739

The Army purchased this helicopter 0167

Total flight hours at this point: 00001156

Date: 01/10/1970 MIA-POW file reference number: 1547

Incident number: 70011010.KIA

Unit: 71 AHC

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: BT239141

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: 1547 ()

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

G SFC GRAZIOSI FRANCIS GEORGE RR

CE SFC ALLEN WAYNE CLOUSE RR

**P CPT CROSBY HERBERT CHARLES RR**

P CW3 HOWES GEORGE ANDREWS BNR



**December 8, 2006**

**HOME AT LAST - CAPT. HERBERT C. CROSBY, MIA**

On January 10, 1970, US Army Capt. Herbert C. Crosby was piloting "Firebird 91", a UH1C Iroquois Huey helicopter combat gunship, in Vietnam. He was leading three



Hueys returning from Tien Phuoc to the unit's home base at Chu Lai, South Vietnam. On board were WO George A. Howes, co-pilot; SP5 Wayne C. Allen, crew chief; and SP4 Francis G. Graziosi, door gunner.

The 22-year old Crosby's tour of duty was scheduled to end a few weeks later, and undoubtedly the young serviceman looked forward to returning home to Donalsonville, Georgia.

But on that day, Capt. Crosby and his three-man crew got lost in bad weather over Quang Nam Province. The ship disappeared without a trace.

For the past 36 years, Crosby's family has awaited word about the fate of their son and brother. Today, they know. This from Capt. Crosby's sister ML, a close and longtime friend of mine:

*"We met with Paul Bethke from the DOD Army Casualty office in the Pentagon and Major Ken Gambles from the Orlando Casualty office for 4.5 hours last Tuesday. They presented a large book with all the findings, investigations, back up materials, dental records, military medical records, etc. Paul explained that this was a difficult case for various reasons which I'll try to sum up here.*

*There is a positive ID taken from tooth #5 of Herbie. This was confirmed using DNA samples that Janie and I provided. Also, they had the dog tag he was wearing when he died, which was presented to mom after the long presentation. She was very touched to say the least when they gave her the dog tag. At least she has something in hand that was he was wearing at the time.*

*A crash site has never been found specifically for this case, however, a general area was determined. The remains from the crew were delivered to the Joint Task Force team in 1989 in box #18 of 25 provided from Vietnam government officials. The box contained remains from three of the crew members, and additional remains were provided that included the fourth crew member's dogtag (but no definite ID for that crew member yet). Remains were teeth.*

*Paul met with the other two crew member's family this week. The Army Public Affairs has also contacted us about press releases, etc. The DOD Public Affairs office is releasing a press release to several papers and television stations in the area that announces not only Herbie's ID but the other crew members as well.*

*However, as of now we have positive ID for Herbie which is great news, bittersweet as it is. We're very happy.*

*Mom accepted the findings and internment arrangements have been planned. The remains are in Hawaii and will be put in a coffin and shipped with military guards to Murphy's Funeral Home in Washington, DC. A uniform will be placed in the coffin that will have all the medals also. We picked out three Fridays in May to book at Arlington starting with first choice of May 25th, the Friday before Memorial Day weekend and Herbie's birthday (May 30).*

*The Army is flying Mom, Janie, Jason, and me and paying all expenses to DC on Wednesday before the funeral. A viewing (rather briefing) is to take place at 5 p.m. on the Thursday. At this time Paul said that some of his comrades, various veterans and anyone concerned (media included) might attend. He said this, obviously, is a very huge event so we can possibly expect media contacts from now until then as word spreads through various veteran's groups, etc.*

*Anyway, a service will be held whatever Friday is finally determined in May at 1 p.m. in the chapel at Arlington Cemetery. Immediately following the service the casket will be transported via horse and caisson to the burial site. There will be the Army band, the gun salute, and possibly a fly-over with a Huey helicopter if they can get a Huey. This will be a very impressive and emotional funeral to say the least."*

*Crew members whose remains have also been identified include SP5 Wayne C. Allen, crew chief; and SP4 Francis G. Graziosi, door gunner.*

*We, as a nation, owe these men our best effort to find them and bring them home. For Capt. Crosby's 87-year old mother, lovingly stroking the dogtag her son died wearing, the long wait is over. Thank you for his service, Mrs. Crosby. Thank you and your family for your sacrifice. God bless you, Gold Star Mom.*

## Remembering Capt. Crosby - May 25, 2007



Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia Plot: Sec 60 Site 557

It was a Friday, May 25, 2007. I was attending my brother's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. I remember that day so well, and will never forget it either. The end to a long 37 years of heartache, hope and wondering had arrived.

You see, my brother, Capt. Herbert C. Crosby was listed Missing in Action, South Vietnam, January 10, 1970. His remains were repatriated January 1989, however, positive identification did not happen until 2006. Since Herby was born on Memorial Day (May 30, 1947) our family decided to bury his remains as close to his birthday as possible.

So on Friday, May 25, 2007, he was finally laid to rest in American soil and in one of the most hallowed grounds of our warriors. Miss you and so glad you're home.









Rattlers and Firebirds Final Salute

'Well done, good and faithful servant!'