

**WILLIAM MICHAEL ELBRACHT  
is honored on Panel 21W, Row 12 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

**Full Name: WILLIAM MICHAEL ELBRACHT  
Wall Name: WILLIAM M ELBRACHT  
Date of Birth: 7/14/1946  
Date of Casualty: 6/25/1969  
Home of Record: RIVERSIDE  
County of Record: RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
State: CA  
Branch of Service: ARMY  
Rank: 1LT  
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM  
Casualty Province: KIEN HOA**



1LT Elbracht was killed when the main rotor of the AH-1G Cobra Gunship he was flying stopped in flight. The mechanical failure caused the aircraft to crash and killed both occupants. He was serving with Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division at the time of his death.

**From the wall-usa.com**

**35, years later, Same O/Same O**

Bill, another Memorial Day is coming and not much has changed. The world is as screwed up as it was in the sixties. I'll have a beer for you on Monday. But the next time we get together it's your turn to buy. It's funny, Lawler never showed up here. QSY. Monk.

Dennis Montgomery  
Flight school classmate  
Chicago, IL.  
May 27, 2004

William is buried at Palm Cemetery in Winter Park, Florida.

**From www.flyarmy.org**

**ELBRACHT WILLIAM MICHAEL**

Name: 1LT William Michael Elbracht

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 06/25/1969 while performing the duty of Aircraft Commander.

Age at death: 22.9

Date of Birth: 07/14/1946

Home City: Riverside, CA

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

Unit: D/3/5 CAV

Major organization: 9th Infantry Division

Flight class: 68-20/68-34

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

The Wall location: 21W-012

Short Summary: Main rotor stopped turning in flight. With Roy Kenneth Williams.

Aircraft: AH-1G tail number 67-15561

Service number: O5429007

Country: South Vietnam

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

Primary cause: Main rotor stop

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: fire or burns

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: co-pilot

Started Tour: 02/28/1969

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

Length of service: 03

Location: Kien Hoa Province IV Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Presbyterian

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 05/25/1998

## **Helicopter AH-1G 67-15561**

Information on U.S. Army helicopter AH-1G tail number 67-15561

The Army purchased this helicopter 0468

Total flight hours at this point: 00000993

Date: 06/25/1969

Incident number: 69062555.KIA

Unit: D/3/5 CAV

This was an Operational Loss caused by an accident by Accident with the mission function of Armed Escort

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: XS442369

Casualties = YES . .

Search and rescue operations were Not Required

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated:

Survivability/Vulnerability Information Analysis Center AVDAC database. Defense

Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Also: OPERA (Operations Report. )

Loss to Inventory and Helicopter was not recovered

Crew Members:

**AC 1LT ELBRACHT WILLIAM MICHAEL KIA**

P WO1 WILLIAMS ROY KENNETH JR KIA

This record was last updated on 04/15/2004