

GARY LEE HIGBEE

CLASS 12-66

**is honored on Panel 49W, Row 29 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Full Name: GARY LEE HIGBEE
Wall Name: GARY L HIGBEE
Date of Birth: 2/27/1945
Date of Casualty: 8/8/1968
Home of Record: MONTGOMERY
State: MI
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: THUA THIEN



CPT Higbee served with Company D, 101st Aerial Weapons Company, 101st Aviation Battalion. The UH-1C Gunship that he was flying as part of a Light-Fire Team was hit in the fuel cell by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) and crashed in the A Shau Valley. There were no survivors.

We served together

You were my mentor at Ft. Sill, 1BN 18th ARTY. You made me feel comfortable in my first assignment as a new 2LT. Thank you and may you rest in peace.

Posted by: Rich Marrocco
August 13, 2006

Gary is buried at Lester Cemetery, Algansee, Branch County, Michigan

From www.flyarmy.org

HIGBEE GARY LEE

Name: CPT Gary Lee Higbee

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 08/08/1968 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 23.4

Date of Birth: 02/27/1945

Home City: Montgomery, MI

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

Unit: D/101 AWC 101 ABN

Major organization: 101st Airborne Division

Flight class: 67-14

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

The Wall location: 49W-029

Short Summary: Gunship hit by RPG on combat assault in A Chau Valley. Copilot Richard Ovatt.

Aircraft: UH-1C tail number 66-15227

Service number: O5420467

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: aircraft commander

Started Tour: 12/06/1967

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

Length of service: 04

Location: Thua Thien Province I Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

single 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 04/12/1998

Helicopter UH-1C 66-15227

Information on U.S. Army helicopter UH-1C tail number 66-15227

Date: 08/08/1968

Incident number: 68080888.KIA

Unit: D/101 AWC 101 ABN

This was a Combat incident. This helicopter was LOSS TO INVENTORY

This was a Recon mission for Armed Escort , Other Aircraft.

While Enroute this helicopter was at Level Flight at 0050 feet and 085 knots.

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: YC369977

Helicopter took 1 hits from:

Explosive Weapon; Non-Artillery launched or static weapons containing explosive charges causing a Fire.

Systems damaged were: PERSONNEL

Casualties = 04 DOI. .

The helicopter Crashed. Aircraft Destroyed.

Both mission and flight capability were terminated.

Burned

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, UH1P3, 22103, LNNF,

JSIDR, CRAFTX, CASRP (Operations Report. Lindenmuth New Format Data Base. Joint Services Incident Damage Report. Crash Facts Message. Casualty Report.)

Summary: Hit in fuel cell by an RPG and crashed inverted.

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P CPT HIGBEE GARY LEE KIA

P WO1 OVAITT RICHARD ARTHUR KIA

CE SP5 BARTLETT CHARLES DENNIS KIA

G SP4 LEACH DICKIE LYNN KIA

War Story:

I was an eye witness to the death of Capt. Gary L. Higbee, WO1 Richard Ovaitt, SP/5 Charles Bartlett and SP/4 Dickie Leach on August 8, 1968; UH-1C tail number 66-15227. I was a door gunner in the other Charlie model in the light fire team. We were actually going out to cover (escort) a slick which was sent in to pick up a captured NVA Lt. The RPG hit the aircraft in the fuel cell and the aircraft went upside down, it went below the trees and I do not know if it impacted in that position. We were orbiting on the west side of the A Shau Valley. Scott DeArman Door gunner with the "Black Angels" 'D' Co. 101st AHB.; AW 101st ABN. DIV.