

GILBERT LEWIS MATTHEWS JR

Class 20-66

is honored on Panel 3W, Row 87 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: GILBERT LEWIS MATTHEWS JR
Wall Name: GILBERT L MATTHEWS JR
Date of Birth: 6/3/1941
Date of Casualty: 6/24/1971
Date of Death: 6/24/1971
Home of Record: PINE RIDGE
County of Record: SHANNON COUNTY
State: SD
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: CAPT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: HUA NGHIA



CPT Matthews lost his life while serving with Advisory Team # 70, Military Assistance Command Vietnam.



Gilbert is buried at Red Cloud Cemetery, Pine Ridge, Shannon County, South Dakota.

From a Rootsweb entry on Ancestry.com

Gilbert Louis Matthews Jr. also went by the name of Butch Matthews Jr..¹ Gilbert Louis Matthews Jr. was born on June 3, 1941 at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Pine Ridge, Shannon Co., South Dakota, USA; "Butch attended kindergarten in Los Angeles because his father was stationed there while in the Navy. He then attended elementary school in Pine Ridge. He went to his freshmen year in high school at Chadron Preparatory, Nebraska, and tenth and eleventh grade he was at Reseda High School in Northridge, California. Butch came back to graduate from Holy Rosary Mission in 1959 in Pine Ridge.

Butch enjoyed hunting and fishing, and in high school he was in track and basketball. Although Butch was awarded a full scholarship to Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, financial constraints led him to the army instead."¹ He was the son of Evelyn Ecoffey.¹ Gilbert Louis Matthews Jr. was mlt active duty on April 1, 1962; "After Gilbert entered the service circa April 1, 1962, he entered Officer's Training School as a mechanical engineer. On August 16, 1966, he was commissioned as a Captain in the United States Army at Fort Still, Oklahoma. Other training Captain Matthews had was non-judicial punishment training, military justice training and had further training in construction engineering. He then enlisted for active service at Fort Hamilton, New York. His first tour of duty in Vietnam was for a year between June of 1967 and 1968. His second tour commenced November 13, 1970; he was part of Advisory Team 70, Military Assistance Command. According to his sister, Darlyne, "He often thought of returning someday to the reservation and running for tribal president. He also told us that during his two tours of duty, the Vietnamese people he met reminded him of his own people and that he felt a great deal of compassion for them."¹ "

He died on June 24, 1971 at Republic of Vietnam at age 30.¹ He was buried after June 24, 1971 at Holy Rosary Cemetery, Pine Ridge, Shannon Co., South Dakota, USA; "Shortly after his death, his body was returned to the United States and his funeral services were held at Holy Rosary Mission. Darlyne wrote, "During the funeral an eagle flew over Butch's gravesite. In our way of life, the eagle is sacred. It is our belief that the eagle came to lead Butch home to his maker," said his sister.¹

