

WILLARD D RICHARDSON JR

Class 35A-67

**is honored on Panel 19W, Row 90 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Full Name: WILLARD D RICHARDSON JR
Wall Name: WILLARD D RICHARDSON JR
Date of Birth: 4/30/1946
Date of Casualty: 8/21/1969
Date of Death: 8/21/1969
Home of Record: MEMPHIS
County of Record: SHELBY COUNTY
State: TN
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: THUA THIEN



1LT Richardson served with Company D, 158th Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. He was the pilot of an AH-1G Cobra gunship that crashed as the result of a mechanical malfunction. During a flight from Camp Eagle the main rotor hub and blades separated from the rest of the aircraft at 3000 feet resulting in a crash and fire. The aircraft fell on its left side doing 360 degree spins. The main rotor blades hit the ground approximately 300 yards southwest of the aircraft.

Willard is buried at Memphis National Cemetery



AH-1G File Photo

From www.flyarmy.org

RICHARDSON WILLARD D JR

Name: 1LT Willard D. Richardson, Jr.

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 08/21/1969 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 23.3

Date of Birth: 04/30/1946

Home City: Memphis, TN

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

Unit: D/158 AVN 101 ABN

Major organization: 101st Airborne Division

Flight class: 68-514/68-24

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

The Wall location: 19W-090

Short Summary: While visiting his old unit (C/101 AVN) rotor blades came off at 3000 ft. giving CPT Joe Shaw a demo of the capabilities of the Cobra.

Aircraft: AH-1G tail number 68-15059

Call sign: Redskins

Service number: O5428351

Country: South Vietnam

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

Primary cause: Lost main rotor

Major attributing cause: aircraft connected not at sea

Compliment cause: fire or burns

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: pilot

Started Tour: 11/01/1968

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

Length of service: 03

Location: Thua Thien Province I Corps.

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Non-hostile - died of other causes

single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Church of Christ

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 07/29/1995

Helicopter AH-1G 68-15059

Information on U.S. Army helicopter AH-1G tail number 68-15059

The Army purchased this helicopter 0269

Total flight hours at this point: 00000286

Date: 08/21/1969

Incident number: 690821311ACD Accident case number: 690821311 Total loss or fatality Accident

Unit: D/158 AVN

The station for this helicopter was Camp Eagle in South Vietnam

Number killed in accident = 2 . . Injured = 0. . Passengers = 1

costing 577160

Original source(s) and document(s) from which the incident was created or updated: Defense Intelligence Agency Helicopter Loss database. Army Aviation Safety Center database. Also: OPERA (Operations Report.)

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P 1LT RICHARDSON WILLARD D JR KIA

Passengers and/or other participants:

CPT SHAW JOE CARL, AR, P, KIA

Accident Summary:

On 21 August 1969, at an unknown time, 1LT Richardson and CPT Shaw departed Camp Eagle, RVN in AH-1G SN 68-15059. The sequence of events leading up the accident are unknown. There were no witnesses who saw the aircraft in the air prior to the separation of the main rotor hub and blades before the crash. After flying for an unknown period of time, the main rotor hub and blades separated from the rest of the aircraft resulting in a crash and fire. The aircraft fell on its left side doing 360 degree spins. The main rotor blades hit the ground approximately 300 yards SW of the aircraft.

This record was last updated on 09/20/1998