

is honored on Panel 14E, Row 82 of  
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Full Name:** LLOYD TAYLOR  
RUGGE  
**Wall Name:** LLOYD T RUGGE  
**Date of Birth:** 7/2/1941  
**Date of Casualty:** 1/26/1967  
**Home of Record:** NORTH HOLLYWOOD  
**State:** CA  
**Branch of Service:** ARMY  
**Rank:** 1LT  
**Casualty Country:** SOUTH VIETNAM  
**Casualty Province:** KONTUM



1LT Rugge was shot down while piloting an O-1 Birddog in support of Marine ground operations. He was assigned to the 220th Aviation Company "Cat Killers" 14th Aviation Battalion, 16th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade.

#### **ONE DAY IN VIETNAM: THE TRUE STORY OF AN ARMY BIRD DOG PILOT.**

The book tells the life story of the author's cousin, Army Lt. Lloyd Rugge, a Silver Star-decorated "Bird Dog" reconnaissance pilot killed in action in Vietnam in 1967. ONE DAY IN VIETNAM is a gripping look at air combat in Vietnam as well as a moving record of the author's search to discover the man he never knew.

Gary Hook, a Pleasant Hill, California lawyer with a longstanding passion for American history, began writing ONE DAY IN VIETNAM after visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Says the author, "I realized that as much as I had studied the American past, I knew essentially nothing about a member of my own extended family who had given his life in the most controversial foreign war in our country's history. At first, I simply set out to find the man behind the name on the Wall. But in the course of doing so I also found an incredible story about a rare breed of military pilot. The Bird Dogs deserve greater recognition, and I hope that ONE DAY IN VIETNAM will serve to enhance public appreciation of their efforts and sacrifices." Based on extensive research of government records, family correspondence, and personal interviews with Bird Dog pilots, Marine Corps infantry, Green Berets and aviation experts, ONE DAY IN VIETNAM is a realistic look at a little-known aspect of the air war in Southeast Asia. It is also a poignant story about a young Army officer with a deep faith in America's noblest ideals, an officer prepared to sacrifice everything to achieve his mission.

First Lt. Lloyd Taylor Rugge of North Hollywood, son of Herbert Rugge, a German emigrant, and Betty Smith Rugge. Rugge was a Boy Scout, attended the local schools and graduated from North Hollywood High School in 1959. He graduated from USC and entered the Army in 1965.

He took his basic training at Fort Ord in California. He did his officers' candidate training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He took flight training at Fort Rucker in Alabama.

He was sent to Vietnam, where he became a Bird Dog pilot, flying a single-engine Cessna O-1. The Bird Dog pilot flies with an observer looking for any enemy activity and then calls in air strikes or artillery or naval guns on the target.

On Jan. 26, 1967, Rugge, along with his observer Patrick O'Malley, received a radio message of trapped Marines being surrounded and pinned down. He flew 400 feet, dropping a rocket which did not release until too late, so Rugge circled to 200 feet. This time he hit his target, but the enemy opened up with three machine guns, hitting the Bird Dog. The plane crashed landed in a creek bed.

O'Malley got out with minor injuries, but Rugge was not so lucky. He had a broken leg and was pinned in. O'Malley finally got Rugge out and set him down by the creek. Soon, all hell broke out and O'Malley saw a grenade in the air and shouted to Rugge "Grenade" and O'Malley dived into the water under the Bird Dog.

He looked for Rugge, but he was nowhere to be found. O'Malley evaded capture and was rescued by a Huey. Rugge was listed as missing and possibly a prisoner of war.

The Army and Marines conducted an intense search and many men died looking for Rugge. Almost three months later, while sweeping and clearing small hamlets in another operation, the Marines came upon a small hamlet and a villager in broken English pointed to the jungle. The Marines followed the villager into the jungle, where they found a single grave that was later identified containing the remains of Rugge.

According to the villagers, the Vietcong had captured Rugge and brought him to the village, where he was put into a bamboo cage. He was put on trial, found guilty and sentenced to death. The Vietcong had the villagers dig his grave and watch—as he was executed.

Rugge was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. He is buried in Glen Haven Memorial Park in Sylmar, California.

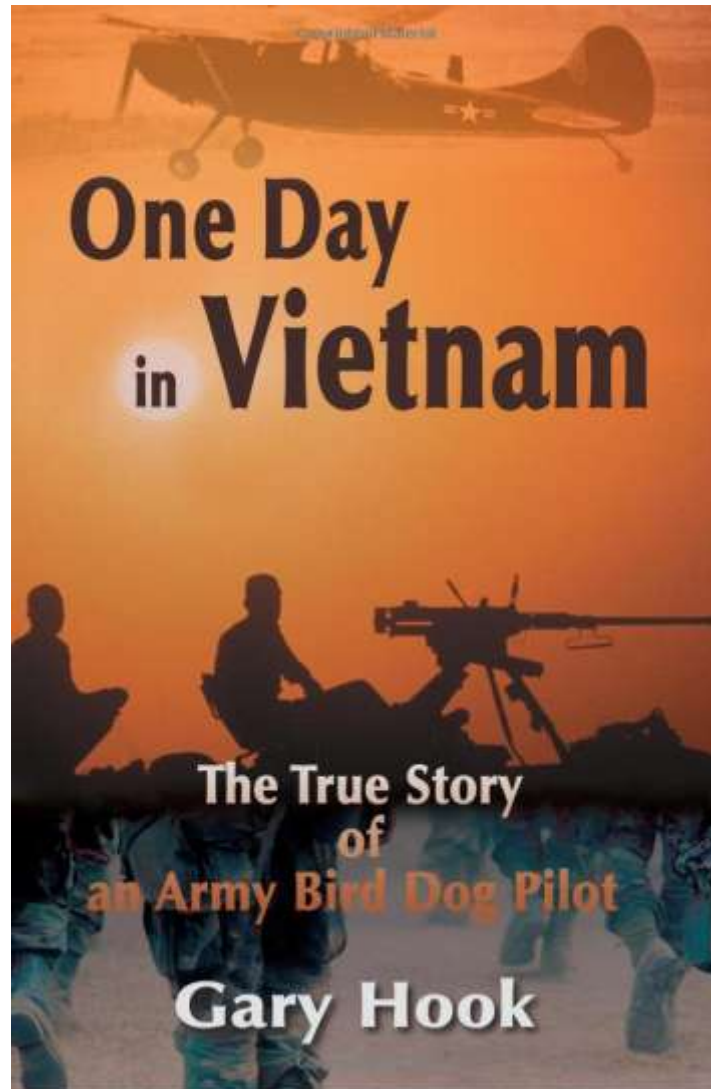
## Flight school classmate

I enjoyed being your classmate and friend during flight school. Fly high forever!

Posted by: Tom Stover. York, PA

Relationship: We served together

July 5, 2011



A book about 1LT Lloyd Taylor Rugge  
Written by his cousin