

ROBERT FRANKLIN WILCOXSON

Class 9-70

is honored on Panel 1W, Row 32 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: ROBERT FRANKLIN WILCOXSON
Wall Name: ROBERT F WILCOXSON
Date of Birth: 7/26/1949
Date of Casualty: 5/25/1972
Home of Record: ELK CITY
County of Record: BECKHAM COUNTY
State: OK
Branch of Service: ARMY
Rank: 1LT
Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM
Casualty Province: KONTUM



1LT Wilcoxson was a Rotary Wing Aviator serving with H Troop, 10th Cavalry, 1st Aviation Brigade at the time of his death. He was a pilot/observer flying in an OH-6A (Loach) on a visual reconnaissance mission south of Kontum that was shot down by an enemy B-40 RPG (rocket propelled grenade).

Rest In Peace

Rest in peace, Bob. We who ran the Jark together. Honor your ultimate sacrifice. You are not forgotten. Redlegs forever.

Posted by: Tom Sturgess, D Battery, OCS Class 9-70
Relationship: OCS Classmate
May 27, 2009

Thinking of 'Bobby'

I was upper class in OCS Class 1-70 at Ft Sill, walking back from the PX and I hear behind me, in a loud whisper 'Danny, It's me Bobby.' We talked with him braced against a building wall, as he was a lower classman. Bobby was a fraternity brother of mine from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, along with his real brother, Lyndon. After about an hour of catching up, we wished each other well, saluted and parted. While I was in Europe in SASCOM, I read about him in the Army Times. I relayed my encounter with Bobby later to Lyndon and he was very sad.

Posted by: Dan Lair
Relationship: College and OCS Classmates
August 3, 2011

WILCOXSON ROBERT FRANKLIN

Name: 1LT Robert Franklin Wilcoxson

Status: Killed In Action from an incident on 05/25/1972 while performing the duty of Aerial Observer.

Age at death: 22.8

Date of Birth: 07/26/1949

Home City: Elk City, OK

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

Unit: H/10 CAV

Prior Unit: C/7/17 CAV

Major organization: 1st Aviation Brigade

Flight class: 70-48

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

The Wall location: 01W-032

Short Summary: Observer on recon mission south side of Kontum observed & reported NVA troops. Went back for second look, shot down w/ 1LT Daryl Kunzler

Aircraft: OH-6A tail number 66-07935

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: vehicular accident

Vehicle involved: helicopter

Position in vehicle: co-pilot

Vehicle ownership: government

Started Tour: 08/04/1971

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - other aircrew

The initial status of this person was: missing in action - P I D

Length of service: *

Location: Kontum Province II Corps.

Military grid coordinates of event: AR783883

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - killed

married 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: battle dead Category of personnel: active duty Army Military class: officer

This record was last updated on 08/02/1997

Helicopter OH-6A 66-07935

Information on U.S. Army helicopter OH-6A tail number 66-07935

The Army purchased this helicopter 0266

Total flight hours at this point: 00000349

Date: 05/25/1972

Incident number: 72052510.KIA

Unit: H/10 CAV

South Vietnam

UTM grid coordinates: AR764866

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

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

Loss to Inventory

Crew Members:

P 1LT KUNZLER DARYL ROY KIA

OB 1LT WILCOXSON ROBERT FRANKLIN KIA

War Story:

Daryl and Bob were checking out "moving" bushes south of Kontum and caught a B-40 rocket, exploding in mid-air, and exploding again on the ground. It took two days of fighting to recover the bodies. The "moving" bushes were sighted by CPT Bob Botnen on dawn patrol and an air strike was denied. The first regular mission of the day was to then check out the situation. This record was last updated on 05/25/1998

From the wall-usa.com

Scout Pilot - You'll Never Be Forgotten

Served in same unit as Robert and remember he went out into the area of operations (AO) near Kontum with Daryl Kunzler, another scout pilot. They were flying an OH-6A (Loach) on a visual reconnaissance mission, better known as hunter-killer team, when their helicopter was hit with a B-40 RPG (rocket propelled grenade). Both men were KIA 25 May 72. I was shot-down in a similar incident in an OH-6 on 5Jun72 near LZ Crystal/Phu My. Somehow my observer, Doug Hansen, and I survived although we were shot-down a second time in our C&C rescue helicopter. All six crewmembers were rescued later by another UH-1H from the 129 AHC. I've always wondered why some of us made it when others didn't. Especially Robert, leaving behind a wife and two kids. It's truly sad and something I'll never forget. Robert was a true hero, who gave his life for America.

Frank Beall

Served in same unit (C/7/17, later H/10 Air Cav Sqd)

April 2, 1999