

Date: Saturday, November 13, 1999 12:14:24 AM

From:

Subj:

To:

Sgt. Major William E. Bowles Jr. United States Army

Born July 31, 1931 Died March 3, 1989

Bill was from a large family (5 boys, 1 girl) and a small town; Olney, Illinois. At the age of 17, in 1948, Bill joined the U.S. Army. He served more than 21 years and along the way earned many commendations, including

the Air Medal and the Bronze Star. I need to find out what some of the others are. Of those 21 years, he was in Korea and then spent 2 years in Vietnam. Bill served in Vietnam from May of 1965 to May of 1966, with the

7th Aviation Platoon and the 14th Aviation Branch attached to I Corps.

Then

from October 1966 to May 1968 with the 484th Transportation

Detachment, the

282nd Aviation Company and HHC 10th Combat Aviation Battalion.

Bill and I met in 1969, just after his return to the USA, and we were married in 1970. Bill has two sons, Stephen, a doctor in the U.S. Army and

Daniel, who served four years in the U.S. Navy.

In addition he has two stepdaughters, Dawn (who passed away earlier this year) and Tracey. Bill has three grandchildren, only one of which will ever remember the brave and kind man who loved us and sacrificed so much.

The first memory I have of Bill's illness was approximately 1975. Bill went

to the Long Beach Naval Hospital and was initially diagnosed with bronchitis. He was sick every year after that and finally the diagnosis was

changed to asthma. Eventually, his illness reached a stage where the Navy doctors could no longer assist him. They sent him to a civilian pulmonary specialist, Dr. Gelb, who treated him until his death in 1989. Dr. Gelb completed the medical information requirement for the Agent Orange Class

Action suit. The court had no difficulty in reaching their decision to

award payment to Bill.

Bill completed the Agent Orange Exposure Form before he died. His comments

"I was a passenger aboard C130 Aircraft transporting Agent Orange a number

of times." Also "on helicopter patrol over areas where Agent Orange was in

use or had been used. Various foot patrols into areas which were defoliated."

Thank you for allowing me to keep Bill's memory alive through your website.

Sincerely,

Diane Bowles

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