

# VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS HISTORY BOOK

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association is now compiling information for the *Vietnam Helicopter Pilots History Book*.

As a veteran of this unique group of men, I can't tell you how important it is for you to leave your thumbprint in time. This book will contain our history, our "after action reports" and our personal biographies with photographs.

I have already sent my own personal biography. Since we served together we can be remembered together in this commemorative history book.

Please join me by writing your personal experience in 150 words. You will create a treasured keepsake to hand down to your children and grandchildren.

We also need your "'Nam photos." They will be returned after the book is printed.

Read the rest of this brochure for instructions:

*We must preserve our legacies for future generations so that they  
will not forget what our fellow Americans died for and  
what we as veterans represent*

Participating is easy -

- Submit your 150 word personal biography
- Submit two photos: military and current
- Write of a special memory or "after action" report from Vietnam
- You don't have to purchase a book to be included
- Send in your "'Nam photos"

Sincerely,

Mike Law, President VHPA

**DEADLINE: MAY 31, 1993**

# SAMPLE BIOGRAPHIES

**ROBERT LIVINGSTON ACKLEN, JR.** was born on 24 March 1941 in Nashville, TN. He was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the infantry on 27 May 1967 at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. After Helicopter Aviation School, he was assigned to the 189th Assault Helicopter Co., 1st Avn. Bde. in Vietnam on 6 October 1968 and transferred to the 57th AHC in March, 1969. He was reassigned to the 101st Abn. Div. where he commanded "C" Co., 3rd Bn., 506th Inf. until October, 1970. Following an in-country Cobra transition, he



transferred to "B" Troop, 2nd Sqd., 17th Cav. In February, 1971, he returned to the 1st Avn. Bde. and trained Vietnamese Air Force Pilots. After a helicopter crash, he was medevaced to the U.S. in June, 1971 with 33 months continuous in-country service. He spent 22 months in the hospital before returning to duty in Korea with the 2nd Inf. Div. He retired with 70% physical disability from Vietnam injuries as a captain on 30 April 1976 at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX. His decorations include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with four "V" devices and five OCLs, Air Medal with four "V" devices and numeral 40, Purple Heart, Army Aviator Badge, two RVN Crosses of Gallantry with Gold and Silver Star. He is currently self-employed as a programmer and systems analyst residing in Dallas, TX. He is a life member of the VHPA.

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**CHARLES D. BROWN**, enlisted in the Army in 1964 at the age of 19. His first assignment was with a Pershing Missile Battalion in Germany followed by Infantry OCS in 1966. Following OCS, Lieutenant Brown remained at Fort Benning for one year as a weapons instructor.

In Vietnam, his paratrooper unit, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, engaged in some of the bloodiest fighting of the war, to include Dak To's Hill 875 in 1967 and the 1968 Tet Offensive. Lieutenant Brown was personally awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Bronze Star Medal and "V" Device for valorous actions, and the Purple Heart for wounds received from a Chinese Communist rifle grenade.



Captain Brown volunteered for a second Vietnam combat tour in 1970 and was a scout helicopter pilot with the 52nd Aviation Battalion in Pleiku. He logged 600 flying hours and was awarded seven Air Medals and his fifth Bronze Star Medal.

Brown served in many key positions in the U.S., Japan, and Thailand during the years following Vietnam. After 21 years of Army service and promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he retired to pursue a civilian career. He is currently the marketing director for a defense contractor in Boston, MA.

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**Use these biographies above as a guide in writing your 150 word biography or use the convenient form below to have a Turner Publishing Company Editor compose your biography.**

## Vietnam Helicopter Pilots

<p>Name <u>DON CAMERON THOMSON</u></p> <p>Address <u>[REDACTED]</u></p> <p>City, State, Zip <u>[REDACTED]</u></p> <p>Date and place of birth <u>KANSAS CITY, KS</u></p> <p>Date joined/inducted service <u>OCT 2, 1966 / REPORTED FOR ACTIVE DUTY FEB. 7, 1967</u></p> <p>Branch of Military, classification <u>U.S. NAVY PILOT (1315)</u></p> <p>Military Locations <u>PENSACOLA, FLORIDA/JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA/VIETNAM (BINH THUY, CA MAU AND NAM CAN)</u></p> <p>Rank achieved at time of discharge <u>LIEUTENANT IN NAVY (O-3)</u></p> <p>Date of discharge <u>DECEMBER 1991</u></p>	<p>Memorable Experiences _____</p> <p>Awards/Medals received <u>18 AIR MEDALS, COMBAT ACTION RIBBON, PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION, NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL, VIETNAM SERVICE, VIETNAM CAMPAIGN, RESERVE MEDAL, RVR CROSS OF GALLANTRY</u></p> <p>Family Data <u>DIVORCED. HAVE ONE SON THAT IS ELEVEN YEARS OLD.</u></p> <p>What are you doing today? <u>U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD HELICOPTER PILOT.</u></p>
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