

Dear Sir;

I am not sure if this should go to the Data Base committee or Historical, so will let you direct it to the proper group.

For the years that I have been a member of VHPA I have seen the names of two pilots KIA with no explanation of their deaths. I feel obligated to provide that information.

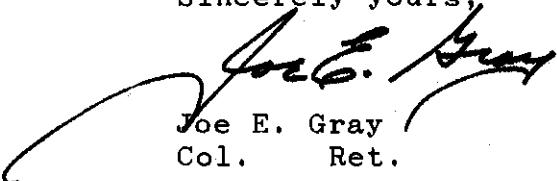
On 30 September, 1965 Capt Frank Leonard Miller III (PIC) and WO1 Clarence Earl Moore (CP) were flying another gunship on my wing for a mission in the First Cav. area. We completed covering an extraction of Cav. troops and although we were fired upon neither Frank nor I thought our aircraft had received hits. We returned to An Khe for refueling and rearming. Frank finished before me and I told him to lift off and I would be right behind him. At perhaps 150 feet AFL and 40 kts, enroute to the Golf Course, Frank's UH1-B (no. 539) engine emitted a large puff of grey powder and the aircraft began to descend rapidly. The aircraft struck the ground nearly level, burst into flames and the ammo began to explode. There were no survivors. The crew chief was PFC Fleming.

Ironically Frank was short a gunner for this mission and the company clerk, Sp4 Maurone, who drove us to the flight line volunteered to go as gunner.

Both Fleming and Maurone's bodies were found outside the fuselage. For some time after that we had great difficulty getting the crew to wear their "monkey harnesses" as they felt perhaps the two could have survived had they not been restrained.

Well, a long story but still very vivid in my memory. Please put a few words beside Frank and Earl's names for me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Joe E. Gray
Col. Ret.

PS. In section IV of the membership directory please correct my class. I went thru fixed wing in 1958 and rotary in 1961. Thanks.