

**Mike Law**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 1999 8:43 AM  
**To:** mike.law(a)ual.com  
**Subject:** Obituary

Hi Mike - nice to talk with you again. Allen was at the reunion in Kansas City in 95 but he said you were really busy and never got a chance to talk to you - he wanted to compare more notes about Phan Thiet '68 since he could NOT recall another helicopter company being there when he was! (which was what you two were trying to discuss at the AHS convention while I was there, 1994).

Allen Barklage, 192AHC 68-69, died September 25, 1998 of injuries suffered in the crash of his personal helicopter on September 19.

Copy of newspaper clipping being sent separately by snail mail, as you requested. Contact me @this E-mail address or by phone (314) 362-8547 (days 8-4) if you find out anything.

Many thanks for your help.

Michelle

**TAPS**  
**Allen Barklage**  
by Michelle Ayers

Allen Barklage, a traffic helicopter pilot for KSDK-TV and two radio stations in St. Louis, died Sep. 25, 1998 of injuries from the crash of his own small helicopter, a Revolution Mini-500, on Sep. 19.

A VHPA member, Allen trained with classes 67-21 and 67-23 then flew with the 192th AHC in 1969-70 and with D/1/10th Cav in 1971-72.

His brother, Larry, also a VHPA member, said that Allen suffered severe head injuries from the crash and never regained consciousness. Larry said, "We often hear about people who live every day like it was their last, but Allen was the only person I've known to really do that."

Allen, who built the Mini-500 from a kit, took off from St. Louis Downtown-Parks Airport heading for a promotional appearance in St. Peters. Federal accident investigators believe the Mini-500's two-cylinder engine failed. The helicopter plunged into a soybean field near the airport.

Allen had about 32,000 helicopter hours. He was employed by Helicopters Inc. to fly their Bell Jet Ranger for traffic reports. Steve Lieber, president of Helicopters Inc. called Allen "a natural who loved to fly."

Allen was honored in 1979 by the U.S. Department of Justice for foiling a prison escape in May, 1978 by killing a hijacker who wanted Allen to land the chartered helicopter in the Marion, IL Federal Penitentiary. The hijacker pulled a .44-caliber piston on Allen but on his low-level approach to the prison, Allen grabbed the pistol. When the hijacker reached for another pistol, Allen shot.

Allen is survived by his wife, two daughters, and one son plus his parents and two brothers.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Law for Larry Barklage and Michelle Ayers who were some of Allen's many, many friends.