

LOCAL NAVY VIETNAM VETERAN HERO TO BE HONORED

Aviation OrdnanceMan Second Class Petty Officer, Michael Schafernocker U S Navy, Son of Jack and Dorothy Schafernocker of Arlington, is to be Honored by his induction into the prestigious Navy Enlisted Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor, in Charleston ,SC at Patriots Point aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Yorktown on Nov. 9th 2001. Petty Officer Schafernocker was KILLED IN ACTION in Cambodia April 28 1969 while flying as a Doorgunner on a heavily armed attack UH1B two helicopter Gunship Fire Team with the famous Seawolves of Helicopter Attack(Light) Squadron Three. Petty Officer Schafernocker was selected for induction, for his bravery and extraordinary heroism during low level search and destroy and strike missions supporting the Navy SEALS , Brown Water Riverine Force Patrol Boats, Army , Marine and other friendly forces when under attack. He was Assigned to Detachment 3 staging out of small isolated bases along the Vietnam/Cambodia border. Each Gunship was armed with two, seven shot external rocket pods and either four external mounted M 60 machine guns or two 6 barreled miniguns. Petty Officer Schafernocker was one of two enlisted gunners on each Gunship firing free(handheld) M 60 or a 50 cal. machine gun from the back of the Helicopter with the ability to bring concentrated intense fire to within several yards of the friendly troops under attack. On 28 April 1969 Petty Officer Schafernocker was KIA when his fire team engaged enemy troops and heavily loaded sampans crossing the Cambodia border. While putting in strikes against the enemy both Gunships of his Fireteam were shot down by troops from the Cambodian side of the border killing 5 and wounding 1 of the eight crewman. The living were rescued by another helo which suffered 2 wounded and the KIAs were taken by the Cambodians and buried. Petty Officer Schafernockers' remains were retrieved through efforts of the state department and returned to the United States 10 months later for a memorial and burial service. During his tour with the Seawolves Petty Officer Schafernocker flew 330 combat missions and was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart , Bronze Star, 3 Single Action Air Medals, 12 Flight/Strike Air Medals, Combat Action Ribbon and 8 other Unit Citations and Medals. He will live on forever in the hearts and minds of his family, friends, and brother Seawolves. It is said by the SEALS and Brown water Sailors that if not for the Seawolves the Vietnam memorial would have a lot more names on it. *Web Site www.seawolf.org*

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