

ROBERT HENRY STRAND

LCDR Robert Henry Strand, USN died 5 November in Walter Reed Hospital after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage, deemed service connected. Born 23 March 1938 in Aberdeen, SD, LCDR Strand was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1960. Commissioned in the Marine Corps, he took flight training at Pensacola where he was designated a Naval Aviator. After an assignment in Marine helicopters, during which he flew combat missions as an advisor to South Vietnamese forces, he attended PG School and received a degree in aeronautical engineering. He then served as Assistant Operations Officer and Special Project Officer in Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464. During that assignment, he flew over 300 combat missions in Vietnam.

LCDR Strand next served as an instructor in the Aerospace Engineering Department at the Naval Academy and then attended the Navy's test pilot school, where he was designated a test pilot. He served as instructor at the school and as the flight test division project officer for the AH-1J Cobra helicopter. He then transferred to the USN, serving as Operations and Maintenance Officer for Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Helicopter Projects, Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters at the Pentagon.

LCDR Strand's decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with Gold Star, 15 Air Medals, a Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" plus a second award, a Presidential Unit Citation and a Navy Unit Citation. He is survived by his widow, Glenda of Springfield, VA; two sons, Mark Christopher and Michael Bennett; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley M. Strand of San Diego, CA; and a sister Mrs. Fred Fitzsimmons of Bitberg, Germany.

SHIPMATE, March 1975