

James John Shereck

Army Captain

Born: March 19, 1939

Died: March 4, 1971



Captain James John Shereck was born March 19, 1939, in Bagley, Minnesota. He had a wife, Susan, two daughters, Dawn and Christine, and a son, Anthony. He was also survived by his mother, Mrs. Adeline Shereck, and four brothers, Ronald, John, Dennis, and Vernon.

Captain Shereck flew helicopters from 1967 to 1968 in Phu Loi (chopper unit unknown), and flew Mohawk planes OV1B from 1970 to 1971 in Phu Bai (Mohawk unit 131st AVN company—nickname, "The Spuds").

In 1969 he was in flight school training, learning about the Mohawk at Fort Huachuca in Arizona. The Mohawk he was killed in was #64-14240. Captain Shereck was loved by all; family, friends and the men who served under him. His men nicknamed him "Timberjack," because he always talked about mountains, woods and lakes in northern Minnesota. He used to drink beer with his men at the troop bar, not the officer's club.

Captain Shereck was flying surveillance over North Vietnam when he developed engine trouble. He flew with one engine back to Phu Bai, when the only engine failed. He told his T.O. (technical observer) to eject, and when his chute opened and was safe, Captain Shereck ejected, but his parachute never opened and he fell to his death, still strapped in his seat.

His son, Anthony (Tony), felt that no vet killed or who served in Vietnam should ever be forgotten for the sacrifice they gave. He worked as a volunteer to help raise money for the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in St. Paul. The memorial is built in the best place for a war memorial; across from the Capitol building, so all the politicians can look out their windows and see what damage a war causes.

Jim is buried in Silver Bay Cemetery, Silver Bay, Minnesota. The cemetery is in the woods on a hill overlooking Lake Superior. He is buried in the area he so deeply loved.

Captain James Shereck was awarded three Air Medals, three Commendation Medals, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Sharpshooter Pistol Badge, the Expert Pistol Badge, and the Gold Star Lapel Button.
