For Immediate Release

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## JONESBORO'S OWN CAPTAIN
## FRANK EUGENE FULLERTON HONORED

For the 17th consecutive year, the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association (AVVBA) will honor a member of the US Armed Forces from the Atlanta area who lost their life in the Vietnam conflict. This year the AVVBA honors one of Jonesboro's own sons – CAPTAIN Frank Eugene Fullerton Captain Fullerton will be honored with the dedication of a memorial at the Harold R. Banke Justice Center.

Frank Eugene Fullerton was born in January 1934 the 7th child of Guy and Evelyn Fullerton, long time residents and farmer's of Clayton County. Frank grew up working the family farms and attending local schools. While attending Jonesboro High School he excelled in football, lettering in 1949. Fullerton was an active member of Future Farmers of America and was by many, considered a natural leader. Graduating at sixteen, Frank worked at a local Jonesboro signage firm. Ambitious and determined to "make something of himself", Frank enlisted in the US Navy in September 1952. After initial recruit training he served as an aviation electronics technician until September 1954 when he was selected from the enlisted ranks to the Naval Aviation Cadets Program where he underwent rigorous training to become a Navy pilot. Graduating in April 1956, he was awarded the wings of a Naval Aviator and commissioned an Ensign. Throughout various assignments in the United States Navy Frank excelled in flying and leadership. His Commanding officers described Fullerton as "dependable under conditions of extreme stress and exhaustion, even tempered and calm when it really counted and he was a leader. Frank was soft spoken and pleasant to be around, he was a good pilot and a professional in everything he did in the air and on the ground." In 1967 he transitioned to jets, and particularly the A4 Skyhawk, known to the pilots as "scooter" or "tinker toy" due to its fast speed, small size, and aggressive handling characteristics. Following training then Lt. Cmdr Fullerton was later assigned as a pilot to

Attack Squadron 93 aboard the U.S.S. Bon Homme Richard, known to sailors as the "Bonnie Dick".

While assigned to Attack Squadron 93, LCDR Fullerton launched on an armed night reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam in an A-4F Skyhawk aircraft. Flying in the mountainous terrain at night in total blackout conditions was extremely dangerous. Flying low altitude to interdict enemy traffic while dodging anti-aircraft fire and surface to air missiles called upon the pilot's every skill and courage. Sighting a convoy of enemy vehicles, LCDR Fullerton directed his wingman to follow as he attacked the target. LCDR Fullerton's bombs were seen exploding in the target area, followed immediately by a secondary explosion. His wingman then lost contact with him. An immediate search was made of the area. The following day, in an exception to standard operating procedures, LCDR Fullerton's commanding officer, Commander Tom Schaaf, lead low level search missions trying to locate the lost airman. LCDR Fullerton was declared Missing in Action.

After the return of POW's in 1974, no word from LCDR Fullerton, and lacking any other information, on 19 January 1978, the United States Navy declared Fullerton as Killed in Action. For his courage and selfless sacrifice for his country he was posthumously promoted to Captain and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with 5 Clusters.

Captain Fullerton is survived by his wife Margie, of Hanford California, who never remarried, his son Frank, Salem Oregon, a paralegal for the Oregon Department of Justice, his two daughters, Linda and Gail and 5 grand children. His only surviving sibling, Jeannette "Jenny" Brown, retired from Civil Service at Fort McPherson in 2002, now lives in Locust Grove, GA. CAPTAIN Fullerton's widow, three children, and seven grandchildren are traveling from California and Oregon to attend the Memorial Ceremony.

Each year the AVVBA erects a memorial in various locations in metropolitan Atlanta in honor of one of the four-hundred individuals killed in Vietnam. The mission of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association is to promote patriotism and sponsor patriotic activities among the business community and to recognize and honor those who gave their lives in service to America.

Additional information and resources can be obtained from the following sources:

www.avvba.org
http://www.skyhawk.org/3E/va93/va93.htm
http://www.angelfire.com/journal/drive/herolost.html



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