AVVBA Memorial – May 26, 2005 – Media Information

Atlanta's Commander Clarence W. Stoddard, Jr., U.S. Navy, Honored



The Atlanta Vietnam Veteran's Business Association (AVVBA), for the 19th consecutive year, will honor a Vietnam Veteran from the greater Atlanta area who gave his life for our country. This year's honoree is Commander Clarence William Stoddard, Jr. CDR Stoddard was serving with the U.S. Navy when he lost his life in the Vietnam conflict. The memorial dedication will take place at the Colony Square Mall, 1197 Peachtree Street in a pre-Memorial Day ceremony to be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2005.

Clarence William (Bill) Stoddard Jr. was born January 30, 1927, the son of Clarence Sr. (deceased) and Helen Stoddard (deceased) who resided in Northeast Atlanta known today as the Virginia Highlands neighborhood.

As early as high school, Bill had a talent for writing and was editor of the Cadet, the school newspaper his senior year. He loved cars and composing poetry as well as playing football, basketball & golf. Bill was captain of the rifle team as well as captain of the high school band better known as "Principal Musician". He graduated from the Marist School in 1944 with the high rank of Master Sergeant.

Upon graduation, Bill joined the United States Navy. After one year of service, he was appointed to the United States Naval Academy and upon graduation was commissioned Ensign, USN June 3, 1949. He married his childhood sweetheart, the former Janey Miller in November 1949. Janey was Miss Georgia and runner-up to Miss America in 1946.

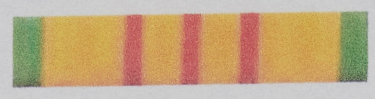
CDR Stoddard was in the U.S. Navy for 22 years, 1944 – 1966. He served in the Korean War as well as two tours in the Vietnam conflict flying for two naval attack squadrons, VA 115 and VA 25. He was highly decorated, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Purple Hearts for wounds received in Vietnam, eight air medals and two Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V in addition to numerous service medals and foreign decorations. (See Medals and Decorations for complete listing).

On September 14, 1966, while Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron 25 (VA 25) embarked in the USS Coral Sea (CVA 43), CDR Stoddard was leading a two-plane bombing mission over North Vietnam searching for NVA truck convoys transporting supplies on the Ho Chi Minh trail into South Vietnam. Near the village of Nghi Thiet, his radar detection system warned him of enemy missile activity. Taking evasive action, he withdrew over the Gulf of Tonkin before his aircraft, a single engine propeller A-1 Skyraider, was struck by enemy surface to air missiles. CDR Stoddard was initially listed as Missing In Action and, in 1973, Navy Intelligence changed his status to Killed In Action (9/14/1966).

Besides his wife Janey, who resides in Memphis, TN, six children survive CDR. William Stoddard. They are Paul Stoddard, Memphis; Mrs. Leslie Whitaker, Memphis; Michael Stoddard, Sahuarita, AZ; Ms.Valerie James, Flagstaff, AZ; Mrs. Cynthia Partyka, Flagstaff and Mrs. Stephanie Gibbons, Jacksonville, FL.

Each year the AVVBA erects a memorial in various locations in the greater Atlanta metropolitan area in honor of one of the many area servicemen who made the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam. The official purpose of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association is to promote patriotism and sponsor activities of a patriotic nature among the business community; to recognize those who served and honor those who gave their lives in the Vietnam War; to promote a positive image of the Vietnam Veteran, their dependents and the widows and orphans of deceased Vietnam Veterans.

Additional information about the AVVBA can be obtained by going to our web site www.AVVBA.org or contacting members listed on the contact's page of this Press Kit.



CDR CLARENCE WILLIAM STODDARD, JR.

MEDALS, HONORS & DECORATIONS

Navy Aviator Wings

Command at Sea Badge

DFC - Distinguished Flying Cross

2 Purple Hearts

8 Air Medals

2 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V

Navy Expeditionary Medal

China Service 45-57 Medal

American Campaign Medal

Victory Medal WW II

2 National Defense Medals

3 Korean Service Medals

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

2 Vietnam Service Medals

RVN National Order 5th Class

RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm

UN Korean Service Medal

Vietnam Campaign Medal

Expert Rifle Medal Navy

Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon

Korean Presidential Unit Ribbon (Combat)

RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Ribbon (Combat)

Personal and Military Information
Extract from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

CLARENCE W. STODDARD, JR.

Joined the United States Navy June, 1944

Rank

Commander

Commanding Officer of Attach Squadron 25, USS Coral Sea CVA 43

39 Year Old Caucasian Male, Married

Born on January 30, 1927

From Atlanta, GEORGIA

Graduate United States Naval Academy June 3, 1949

KILLED IN ACTION ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1966

IN THE GULF OF TONKIN, NORTH VIETNAM

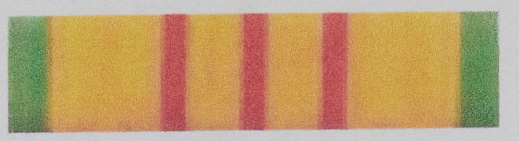
STRUCK BY ENEMY SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES

Body Was Not Recovered

Religion

CATHOLIC

Panel 10E – Line 95



Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association

(http://www.avvba.com)