

Carl Lynn West, T-56

12 October 1938 – 2 February 1968

(aged 29)

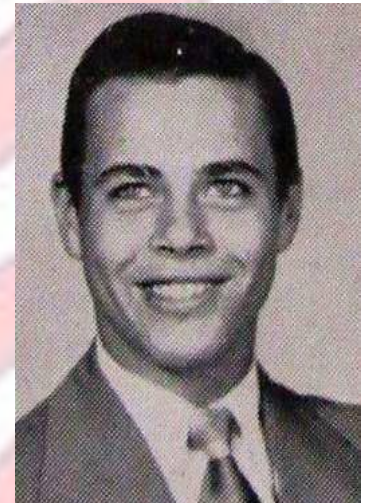


An Army Captain on his second tour of duty in Vietnam and who also served in Korea, died February 2 when the attack helicopter he was piloting on a combat mission was hit by enemy fire and crashed.

Captain Carl Lynn West, 29, son of Mrs. Opal O. Rhen of 528 S. Greer and Joe D. West of Lonoke AR, was the 111th Shelby Countian to be killed in Vietnam.

He was reared in Memphis and was a graduate from Tech High School.

The Army has not yet notified his wife, Mrs. West, who lives in Smithville TN, where in Vietnam he was killed. He also leaves three daughters, Joyce, Carla, and Jennifer.



During his first tour in Vietnam (1965-66) Captain West was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross twice, the Bronze star, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal. The Purple Heart was for wounds received in action.

Last November, he returned to Vietnam where he was assigned to the 235th Attack Helicopter Company.

After graduation from High School, Captain West joined the Army and was sent to Korea. He returned to Memphis after being discharged, joined the Army National Guard, was employed by Mills-Morris Automotive Parts and about four years ago he returned to the Army and was commissioned.

“When we received word about two weeks ago that he was missing and then didn’t hear anything else,” said his stepfather, Thomas C. Rhem of the Greer address, “we began to get our hopes up. Then we received word he was dead, and his body recovered.”

Captain West also leaves a brother, Joe T. West of Mineral Wells TX, who also served in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot.

Information from The Press-Scimitar, Saturday, 17 February 1968.

