

## **Edwin Earl Cooper (1945 – 1967)**

Edwin Cooper was born on June 7, 1945. He lived at 767 Riverlawn Ave., Chula Vista with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otis D. Cooper. He was a native of Idabelle, Oklahoma and a 1963 graduate of Chula Vista High School

In 1964, when he was 18, he joined the United States Navy and served as a Hospital Corpsman flying in helicopters with the United States Marines.

He was awarded the bronze star for action under fire. He was assigned to squadron HMM163, MAG 16 (Marine Air Group) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Air Wing (MAW) and had been in Vietnam for 10 months. He was not married and was listed as a Protestant.

HN Cooper was killed in action (KIA) on February 21 1967 at Thua Thien, South Vietnam. His helicopter crashed due to hostile fire. He is buried at the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, and his grave is located at Plot: T 0502. He was buried on March 3, 1967. He is also survived by his 3 brothers, Michael, Gary, & Mark, a sister, Janice, all living with their parents. A street in Chula Vista is named in his honor.

His name appears on the WALL in Washington D.C. and is located at Panel 15 East, Row 82. Of note, there are 692 Navy Corpsman listed on the Wall who died in Vietnam. His name also appears on the San Diego Peace Memorial in Balboa Park. His name was also added to the Stardust Spacecraft in a NASA microchip as an outreach program. Further information can be found at:

http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/overview/microchip/faq.html

He is posthumously recognized as a member of the USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Association.

