

## **Raymond Omer Kincannon (1944 – 1968)**

Raymond Kincannon was born on April 17, 1944. He was the sixth young man from the South Bay area to be killed in the first four months of 1968 in Vietnam. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kincannon of 1145 Cuyamaca in Chula Vista. He is also survived by his wife, Linda, a son David, and a daughter, Janet, two sisters, Mary Louise, and Theresa and a brother, George. His maternal grandmother, Mrs. Marl L. Rancourt also lives in Chula Vista.

Captain Kincannon served in the United States Army and reached the rank of CAPT/(O3) in four years of service. He was killed when his reconnaissance plane crashed and burned in the Cam Rahn Bay area. He had been assigned to the 203<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Airplane Company since his arrival in Vietnam on October 9, 1967.

He was the first casualty of his company and was killed in action on April 1, 1968 at Phu Yen, South Vietnam. He was flying a Forward Air Control mission seeking out the enemy in his "Bird Dog" L-19 plane when his plane was hit by hostile fire and the fatal crash occurred. His last letter to his parents recalls his high morale, and his job of flying 5 hours a day on reconnaissance missions.

Ray Kincannon was a varsity football player and wrestler at Hilltop High School before his graduation in June 1962. He attended Southwestern College briefly before the Cuban Missile crisis impelled him to join the Army in October, 1962. He went to Ft. Ord for basic training. He was commissioned in June 1965 after being attached to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, NC. He received his wings in 1967.

He is buried at the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, CA and his grave is located at Plot: Q 1289. He was buried on April 16, 1968.

He held the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, nine Air Medals, and the Purple Heart. His name appears on the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC at Panel 47 East, Row 33. 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>

