

## **Rick Alton Oliver (1948-1969)**

Army Specialist Rick Alton Oliver died in Vietnam on Feb 16, 1969 from a result of burns received in a helicopter crash. The young specialist was 20 years old and a 1967 Chula Vista High School graduate. Oliver enlisted in the Army Aviation after graduation and left for Vietnam on October 23, 1967, just seven days shy of his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. After enlistment in the army, he spent 11 weeks at Fort Hunter, Georgia becoming a helicopter mechanic and repairman.

This young man died when his helicopter was receiving intense enemy ground fire, which caused a malfunction in the aircraft, which crashed and burned at Kontum, South Vietnam causing intensive burning and the death of Specialist Fourth Class Oliver. Rick Oliver flew 90 missions in 30 days and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters

At Chula Vista High School, Rick was one of the four trophy winners in an automobile trouble shooter contest among members of his auto mechanic class. Rick was a member of the First Christian Scientist Church in Chula Vista. He lived at 620 Fig Avenue, Chula Vista. A funeral service was held at the Humphrey mortuary in Chula Vista and his burial was done at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on February 26, 1969. The location of his grave is Plot: O 2261-C

His name appears at the San Diego Peace Memorial in Balboa Park, as well as at Memorial Park in Chula Vista. 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>

Left behind were his parents, a brother, Private Marc Oliver of the Army Security Agency, two sisters, Dreda and Janis Oliver, and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Edna Worthington of Chula Vista. His headstone at Fort Rosecrans reads:

