



Samuel Digges Freeman III Co D-1

Arriving after a year at the Citadel, his interests have ranged from hi-fi and fencing to Flirty, the Village, and the Field Sanitation Committee during Beast Barracks. He always works hard and does an outstanding job in whatever he tries. This ability coupled with his warm, friendly personality will bring Sam a long successful career in the Army.

Born – 19 Sep 1937, Newport News, VA.

To USMA – Came from Wilton, CT. Appointed by the National Guard.

Died – 7 Jan 1967 (age 29) at Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Buried at Mathews, VA.

Military Awards – Bronze Star Medal and Soldiers Medal (awarded posthumously).

Schooling – Military Intelligence School.

Family - Wife – Stephanie Thomas Freeman (5 years – married three weeks after graduation) – 3 children (Samuel IV, Anne, Kristin) – 5 plus grandchildren.

Contact – Stephanie Freeman Cassam, Address P.O. Box 3343, Ashland, OR 97520, Phone 530-475-0512, Email unknown.

Sam served on active duty in the Army (Signal Corps and then to Military Intelligence) for 5 plus years until his untimely death in 1967, with the rank of Captain. His first assignments were the 144th Signal Battalion in Nuremburg and then the Headquarters 504th Signal Battalion in Mannheim, Germany. He then served at Washington, D.C. (Defense Intelligence Agency, DIA), Fort Bragg (Headquarters, Special Warfare Center, SWC) and Vietnam (181st Military Intelligence Detachment, 101st Airborne Division).

On 24 October 1966, Sam was making a routine low-level reconnaissance flight in a piloted, single-engine fixed-wing aircraft on his way to visit various Special Forces camps. At some point in the flight, the pilot was unable to maintain power, and the plane came down in a cleared ravine. Sam was able to get out of the aircraft uninjured, until some gasoline from the wing tank splashed on his right side, igniting. Sam ran to a nearby stream, extinguished the flames, and rushed back to the burning plane to find the pilot trapped inside with both legs broken. He quickly slipped under the burning wing and pulled the pilot to safety. He then returned to the plane and continued to radio their position until the rescue helicopter arrived. Sam suffered second degree burns to his right arm and the right side of his face, neck, and chest. Due to complications from the burns, Sam was evacuated to the Philippines, then to Japan and later to Walter Reed, where he passed away from his injuries on 7 January 1967. In the end he gave his life to save the life of another.

Footnote from Sam's wife Stephanie – Sam was “a very gentle, loving man with a quiet dignity and self-assurance that our son Sam has, along with his father's code of ethics.”