

Burris Jr., Donald Deane
Dates in the 57th - 1969
CW2 - Pilot
Birth Date: December 26th 1946
Philadelphia, PA
Missing In Action Date: December 22nd 1969
Cambodia/Laos



<https://directory.vhpa.org/details.php?m=msqemEDaasUN7Rx7upXEteZ7zkE3G4Kyfj5EyUFOCgFIvmHWmOV%2BDgZ%2F6QiG2Zpzj3SeEGqeQRgHJVBM3gaNzQ%3D%3D>

Donald Deane Burris Jr.
Military rank: WO1

Status: KIA - 22 Dec 1969

There is more information about this person on the [VHPA web site](#).

Flight Class(es):
67-19, 67-17

Call Sign(s):

Unit(s):
57 AHC (69)

Branch of Service:
AR

<https://www.vhpa.org/KIA/K10280.HTM>

BURRIS DONALD DEANE JR

[Click here](#) for more information about this incident

Name: CW2 Donald Deane Burris, Jr.

Status: Body Not Recovered from an incident on 12/22/1969 while performing the duty of Pilot.

Age at death: 23.0

Date of Birth: 12/26/1946

Home City: Wayne, PA

Service: reserve component of the U.S. Army.

Unit: 57 AVN, 52 CAB

Flight class: 67-19/67-17

Service: U.S. Army.

The Wall location: 15W-081

Short Summary: Crash - rescue ropes were used to lift out Burris. He lost his grip at about 2500 ft. 2nd tour.

Aircraft: UH-1C tail number [66-00587](#)

Country: South Vietnam

MOS: 100E = Attack Helicopter Pilot

Primary cause: Laos-BNR

"Official" listing: helicopter air casualty - pilot

Length of service: 03

Military grid coordinates of event: YA678975

Reason: aircraft lost or crashed

Casualty type: Hostile - died while missing
single male U.S. citizen

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Presbyterian

This record was last updated on 06/28/1991

Final Mission of WO Donald D. Burris Jr.

Posted on 7/21/14 - by



On December 22, 1969, aircraft commander WO John H. Hunsicker, pilot WO Donald D. Burris Jr., crew chief SP5 Timothy A. Purser, and door gunner SP4 James E. Kennedy were the crew of a UH-1C helicopter (serial #66-00587) on a combat support mission when it developed mechanical problems and crashed landed. Official records differ as to the location of the crash. U.S. Army casualty and Joint Casualty Resolution Center records indicate that the crash was in Cambodia, yet Defense Department, State Department and other records indicate that the crash occurred near the border of Attopeu and Saravane Provinces in Laos, some 30-35 miles north of the closest point in Cambodia. Coordinates 152029N 1972941E are that location. The locality of YA678975, however, is undoubtedly Cambodia. It is possible that their combat support mission was in Cambodia, and the subsequent rescue flight took a circular northwesterly course around the mountains in northern Cambodia along the Laos border, circled back east towards Dak To (its destination). Some records pinpoint the actual location of loss at the beginning of the flight, while others record it during flight. Regardless, when the aircraft landed, Burris, Purser and Hunsicker had survived the crash, but they could

not locate the door gunner, James Kennedy. WO Hunsicker and WO Burris escaped through the left cargo door uninjured. They found the crew chief Purser, who had also scrambled free of the wreckage. He had a broken arm. A search of the general area around the crashed helicopter revealed no trace of SP4 Kennedy, and he was not trapped in the wreckage. As door gunner, and at a position on the side of the main cargo area of the aircraft positioned at an open door, Kennedy may have decided to bail out of the descending aircraft. He may also have fallen, although this is unlikely since the gunners were generally strapped in to the frame of the helicopter. Minutes after the helicopter crashed, a recovery helicopter arrived in the area and lowered ropes with McGuire rigs attached through the dense jungle to the downed men. The survivors were not trained in the proper use of this equipment, and SP5 Purser fell out of his rig a few feet off the ground. WO Burris and WO Hunsicker remained in their rigs and were lifted out, and the helicopter started toward Dak To, with the two rescued men still on the ropes. Five minutes into the flight, Burris lost his grip on the rope and fell from an altitude of from 2500 to 3000 feet. The rescue helicopter continued to the nearest landing area. A search and rescue team was inserted into the crash site area and recovered Purser. The team searched widely for SP4 Kennedy, but found no trace of him, and concluded their search on December 25. No search was made for Burris because of the lack of positive information to pinpoint his loss site and the hostile threat in the area. [Narrative taken from pownetwork.org; image from wikipedia.org]



<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/7000/DONALD-D-BURRIS-JR/#sthash.mLOX9nIM.dpuf>

HONORED ON PANEL 15W, LINE 81 OF THE WALL

DONALD DEANE BURRIS JR

WALL NAME

DONALD D BURRIS JR

PANEL / LINE

15W/81

DATE OF BIRTH

12/26/1946

CASUALTY PROVINCE

LZ

DATE OF CASUALTY

12/22/1969

HOME OF RECORD

WAYNE

COUNTY OF RECORD

Delaware County

STATE

PA

BRANCH OF SERVICE

ARMY

RANK

CWO

STATUS

MIA

8 Sep 2015 Face Book



Robert Terry
23 hrs.

Got the message below via the website today. Jim McKenzie a coin might be in order here for Donald's sister to be presented at their October reunion. Anyone near the Wayne/Radnor PA vicinity that could attend the 2016 ceremony?

Martin Costello < >

regarding Donald D Burris
missing in action
December 22nd 1969
pilot 57th AHC - Cougars
presumed dead

We will be honoring WO Burris October 10th 2015
at the 50th reunion of his high school graduating class.
Radnor high school.
His sister will be in attendance.
In the spring of 2016, you will also be honored at the unveiling
Radnor High School Wall of Honor.
Please let me know if any of your members could attend the
unveiling ceremony spring of 2016.

Sincerely

Martin Costello
610 500 3825

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/155624939/donald-deane-burris>

CWO Donald Deane Burris, Jr

BIRTH	26 Dec 1946 Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, USA
DEATH	22 Dec 1969 (aged 22) Cambodia
MEMORIAL SITE*	<u>Honolulu Memorial</u> Honolulu, Honolulu County, Hawaii, USA <i>* A structure erected in honor of someone whose remains lie elsewhere.</i>
PLOT	Courts of the missing
MEMORIAL ID	155624939 · View Source

CWO Burris #11858859

MOS: 100E Attack Helicopter Pilot.

Donald was a student at Northwestern University, when he enlisted in the Army Helicopter Program, at Fort Rucker, Alabama, 21 November 1967.

During his first tour of duty in Vietnam, Donald suffered leg injuries when his helicopter crashed and spent several months of recovering at the Valley Forge Hospital. After his recovery he was assigned to a duty station in Germany. When he completed his assignment, Donald volunteered for a second tour of Vietnam. When Donald arrived in Vietnam 10 December 1967, he was assigned to the 57th AHC, 52nd Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade, USARV. Donald was the pilot of a Uh-1C #66-00587 that was shot down by hostile forces in the vicinity of Rotanokiri, Cambodia. Another aircraft nearby rescued Donald from the crash site and was on route to Dak To, when Donald lost his grip on the McGuire rig, at about 2500 feet and was lost in the jungle below. His remains were not recovered.

Donald served his country for 3 years.

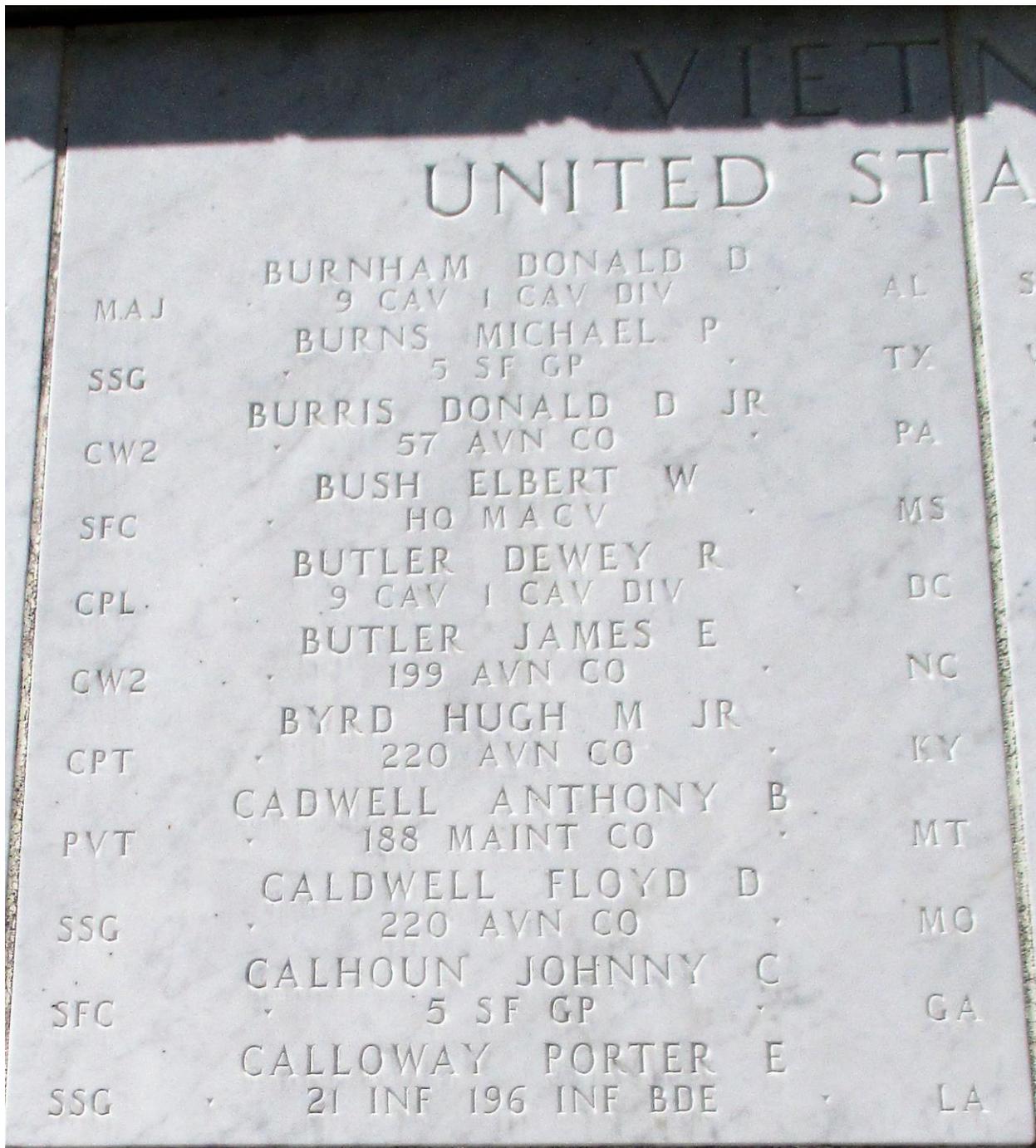
Survived by his parents, Donald Deane and Olive L Burris Sr of 519 West Beechtree Lane, Wayne, Pennsylvania.



<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1990395/honolulu-memorial#view-photo=29338744>



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/155624939/donald-deane-burris#view-photo=154187003>



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/155624939/donald-deane-burris#view-photo=137070015>

Radnor Copter Pilot Killed in Viet War

A Radnor Army helicopter pilot, who has been listed as missing in action since Dec. 26, has been declared killed in action in South Vietnam.

Chief Warrant Officer Donald D. Burris Jr., 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Burris, 519 W. Beechtree Lane, Wayne, was shot down in aerial action 10 days after being assigned to a combat unit on his second tour of duty in Vietnam.

He was the 147th Delaware County serviceman to die as a result of Vietnam action since May, 1965.

Burris was injured in the crash of a helicopter on his first tour of duty in Southeast Asia. He suffered leg injuries and spent several months recuperating at Valley Forge Army Hospital.



DONALD D. BURRIS

Burris returned to active duty and completed an assignment in Germany. He then volunteered to return to Vietnam.

Burris earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, the nation's third highest medal for heroism; 23 awards of the Air Medal for meritorious service in combat air operations; the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for valor and several unit citations.

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross during his first tour of duty in Vietnam. He was cited for the evacuation of an infantry unit that had been surrounded in an attack.

Burris was serving the last year of a 4-year enlistment. He was a student at Northwestern University when he enlisted in the Army's helicopter program.

He departed the United States Dec. 10 for his second tour of duty in Vietnam.

The family received notification from the Army that he was missing the same day they received a letter informing them that he had been assigned to an operating unit.

His parents were notified Saturday of the change in status from missing to killed. The Army informed his parents that the change occurred as the result of a board of inquiry. His body has not been recovered.

Burris was editor of the school newspaper at Radnor High School.

He is also survived by a sister, Mary, at home, and his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Burris of Platteville, Wisc.

A memorial service will be conducted at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Wayne Presbyterian Church.