

**Hestand, Thomas W.**  
**Dates in the 57<sup>th</sup> – 1968 - 1969**  
**WO1 – Pilot (Ret. CW4)**  
**Birth Date: November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1944**  
**Atlanta, GA**  
**Died After Tour Date: June 26<sup>th</sup> 2014**  
**Marion, IL**



<https://directory.vhpa.org/details.php?m=cbHX36dPaZdi7FgPpokPMddvJUhTOfQEg6abQmMeg5Gs8tuAJwyTDXDAREV0y6xLDXMvoicpSh1t3IiixT1Uzg%3D%3D>

**Thomas W. Hestand**  
**Military rank: CW4**

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

**Flight Class(es):**  
**68-517, 68-31**

**Call Sign(s):**  
**GLADIATOR 817**

**Unit(s):**  
**57 AHC (68-69)**  
**281 AHC (73)**

Branch of Service:  
**AR**

## **HESTAND THOMAS W**

CW4 Thomas W. Hestand was a VHPA member who died after his tour in Vietnam on 06/26/2014 at the age of 69.6 (Exact date not known.)

Marion, IL

Flight Classes 68-517 and 68-31

Date of Birth 11/02/1944

Served in the U.S. Army

Served in Vietnam with 57 AHC in 68-69, 281 AHC in 73

Call sign in Vietnam GLADIATOR 817

This information was provided by James Petraitis

More detail on this person: Marion, IL-Thomas W. Hestand, 69, passed away at 4:55pm on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, KY. Thomas was born on November 2, 1944 in Atlanta, GA to Wayne and Afton (Croslin) Hestand.

Tom enjoyed a lifetime of achievement filled with family and friends. He attended Kemper Military Academy, graduating from Marion High School in 1962, SIU Carbondale with a Bachelor of Science in Government (1974) and a Master of Science in Education (1975). His college summers were spent as a firefighter and in trail maintenance at Yosemite National Park. His military career spanned twenty-one years, attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 as a helicopter pilot for the US Army. He served in the 57th Assault Helicopter Company with his first mission in Vietnam in December 1968. He left active duty in March 1971 and retired from the Army Reserve 281st Assault Helicopter Company in 1989. He was also a certified hot air balloon pilot. Tom was appointed by the Governor as a member of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board in April 1982 serving three consecutive two year terms.

After completing his education, he co-owned Hestand Insurance Agency with his parents. He pursued further business in agriculture, transportation and construction forming Medline Construction Company in Carbondale. His love of outdoor activities, which included hunting, shooting, western horses, boating, fishing and golf was passed along and enjoyed with his two sons.

Survivors include: Sons: Tyler Hestand and wife Mandy of Goreville, IL; Clinton Hestand and wife Dannielle of Creal Springs, IL; Longtime companion: Charlotte

Cash of Marion, IL; Grandchildren: Hailey and Caden Hestand; Sister: Nancy Baron; Close Cousin: Colleen Bogard; Maternal Uncle: Kenneth Gray

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 12pm at Rose Hill Cemetery in Marion with Rev. Eddie Donnelson officiating. Military rites were performed by the VFW and American Legion Posts with assistance from the Illinois National Guard. Visitation was held on Tuesday from 10am until 12pm at Blue Funeral Home in Marion.

Memorial donations are suggested to the American Cancer Society and will be accepted at Blue Funeral Home, 1704 N. Court St, Marion, IL 62959. For more information or to sign the memorial guest register, please visit [www.bluefuneralhome.com](http://www.bluefuneralhome.com) Thomas Hestand MARION -- Thomas W. Hestand, 69, passed away at 4:55 p.m. Thursday, June 26, 2014, in Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah. Thomas was born Nov. 2, 1944, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Wayne and Afton (Croslin) Hestand. Tom enjoyed a lifetime of achievement filled with family and friends. He attended Kemper Military Academy, graduating from Marion High School in 1962, SIU Carbondale with a Bachelor of Science in Government (1974) and a Master of Science in Education (1975). His college summers were spent as a firefighter and in trail maintenance at Yosemite National Park. His military career spanned 21 years, attaining the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 as a helicopter pilot for the U.S. Army. He served in the 57th Assault Helicopter Company with his first mission in Vietnam in December 1968. He left active duty in March 1971 and retired from the Army Reserve 281st Assault Helicopter Company in 1989. He was also a certified hot air balloon pilot. Tom was appointed by the Governor as a member of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board in April 1982 serving three consecutive two year terms. After completing his education, he co-owned Hestand Insurance Agency with his parents. He pursued further business in agriculture, transportation and construction forming Medline Construction Company in Carbondale. His love of outdoor activities, which included hunting, shooting, western horses, boating, fishing and golf was passed along and enjoyed with his two sons. Survivors include sons, Tyler Hestand and wife, Mandy, of Goreville, Clinton Hestand and wife, Dannielle, of Creal Springs; longtime companion, Charlotte Cash of Marion; grandchildren, Hailey and Caden Hestand; sister, Nancy Baron; close cousin, Colleen Bogard; and maternal uncle, Kenneth Gray. He was preceded in death by his parents. Services will be at noon Tuesday, July 1, in Rose Hill Cemetery in Marion, with the Rev. Eddie Donnelson officiating. Military rites will be performed by the VFW and American Legion Posts with assistance from the Illinois National Guard. Visitation will be 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday at Blue Funeral Home in Marion. Memorials may be

made to the American Cancer Society and will be accepted at Blue Funeral Home, 1704 N. Court St., Marion, IL 62959.

Burial information: Rose Hill Cemetery, Marion

This information was last updated 09/07/2018

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/131989835/thomas-w-hestand>

## Thomas W Hestand

<b>BIRTH</b>	2 Nov 1944
	Georgia, USA
<b>DEATH</b>	26 Jun 2014 (aged 69)
	Paducah, McCracken County, Kentucky, USA
<b>BURIAL</b>	<u><a href="#">Rose Hill Cemetery</a></u>
	Marion, Williamson County, Illinois, USA
<b>MEMORIAL ID</b>	131989835 · <u><a href="#">View Source</a></u>



<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2205780/rose-hill-cemetery#view-photo=197547354>





<https://billiongraves.com/grave/THOMAS-HESTAND/9951267>

