

Some gave All

This week's veteran is Tim Bodden, brother of Rich Bodden.

Tim Bodden attended grade school in Assumption, but later moved to Downers Grove, IL. which was his home of record when he entered the United States Marine Corps.

Tim was a crew chief/door gunner on a CH46A helicopter that was sent to pick up an Army Special Forces team and ARVN troops working with them about 15 miles inside Laos. After pick-up, their helicopter came under heavy enemy fire and crashed within about 375 feet of takeoff. Only two soldiers survived the crash, SFC Charles F. Wilklow who was evacuated, and LCPL Frank E. Cius who was a prisoner of war until 1973. Other crew members including Sgt. Bodden were listed as MIAs until declared dead on September 8, 2000.

Tim's mother, Dorothy, devoted many years trying to discover what had happened to her son. She did not want him and others like him to be forgotten. We can be assured that it was because of her diligence and others like her that the government was forced to pursue a course of action that brought closure to many families of MIAs.

In 1996, a team from the Joint Task Force for Full Accounting (JTFFA) traveled to Saravane Province, Laos, to investigate this incident. They found some remains and a dog tag. They returned in 1999 to evacuate the site and found more remains and aircraft wreckage. Remains were identified for several crew members, but for Tim there was no individual identification. The official record says his identification "was made through circumstantial evidence." On September 29, 2000, the fragmented remains of Tim and his crew members were buried as a group in Arlington National Cemetery.

Thank you, MSGT Timothy R, Bodden, for what you gave for us and thanks to his loving mother.

