**GEORGE W. EVANS**

Brick Location: C9

George W. Evans, CPL, USMC passed away on March 12, 2016 at the age of 67. George served two tours in Vietnam as a helicopter gunner with the First marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific from August 12, 1967 to June 4, 1969. George suffered from PTSD for years following his last tour in Vietnam, long before PTSD was considered a disease. Upon completion of many of their flight missions, the helicopters on which he served returned to their bases carrying both the injured and the dead. Although George cared not to talk much about his experiences in Vietnam, at one point he stated that several times when exiting the helicopters, he felt the stickiness on his hands and fingers from Agent Orange on the helicopter doors and door frames. George was diagnosed with heart disease in 1995 at which time he underwent a triple bypass. It was many years however before George agreed with his wife to apply for veterans disability since his disease was considered to be caused in part by exposure to Agent Orange. George did start receiving disability payments, plus a retroactive bonus, just a few years before finally succumbing to his 20 year long battle with heart disease.

A Sylvester Stallone movie quote from “First Blood” comes to mind upon learning of the death of his Vietnam buddy Delmar from cancer caused by Agent Orange, “he died in Vietnam, he just didn’t know it.”

Submitted by:

Steven R. Evans

March 21, 2016