

Leon Darwin Flanders

War: Vietnam

Class: 1964

Major: Economics

Activities and Sports while at Clemson: Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Army ROTC 1, 2, 3, 4

Home Town: Winnsboro, SC

Service: Army

Rank: First Lieutenant

Unit: 2nd Airlift Platoon, 171st Aviation Company, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, 17th Combat Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade, Nha Trang, South Vietnam

Date of Death: June 17, 1966; Lieutenant Flanders' body was recovered and returned home for burial in



the New Silver

Brook Cemetery in Anderson, SC.

Details of Death: LT Flanders was the pilot of an UH-1D Huey 'slick' helicopter on a mission supporting a Special Forces Camp at Ban Me Thuot, Darlac Province, in the highlands of South Vietnam. Before returning to his base at Nha Trang, he and his co-pilot stopped in the Mess Tent at the camp. When an alarm sounded, LT Flanders and his co-pilot were proceeding to a shelter when a mortar round landed nearby, hitting LT Flanders with a piece of shrapnel and inflicting a fatal wound. The airfield at Dong Ba Thin was later named Flanders Field.

Awards / Citations: Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with Valor Device, Purple Heart, Air Medal with Valor Device and Six Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Military Merit Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

By direction of the President, the Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to First Lieutenant Leon Darwin

Flanders who distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 9 May 1968 while serving as aircraft commander of a UH-1B helicopter during a rescue mission of a six man Special Forces reconnaissance team near Bo Tuc, Republic of Vietnam. When he arrived over the operational area, an air strike was in progress against a Viet Cong battalion and the reconnaissance team was unable to move without exposing its position and suffering annihilation. After making four low level flights over the action to determine the team's position, Lieutenant Flanders started to land when the air attack was lifted. During the final approach to the landing zone, his helicopter received intense enemy fire. He was wounded in the foot and his aircraft received major damage. However, after skillfully gaining control of the helicopter, he flew out of range and radioed in another air attack. This attack ripped the Viet Cong forces and permitted the United States fighting men to escape possible death. LT Flanders' outstanding flying ability and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

- Borrowed from the Clemson Alumni web site located at:

<http://cualumni.clemson.edu/page.aspx?pid=1693>



LEON D FLANDERS
is honored on Panel 8E, Row 56 of
the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Full Name: LEON D [FLANDERS](#)

Wall Name: LEON D FLANDERS

Date of Birth: [10/30/1942](#)

Date of Casualty: [6/17/1966](#)

Home of Record: [FAIRFIELD](#)

County of Record: [FAIRFIELD COUNTY](#)

State: [SC](#)

Branch of Service: [ARMY](#)

Rank: [1LT](#)

Casualty Country: [SOUTH VIETNAM](#)

Casualty Province: [PR & MR UNKNOWN](#)

- Borrowed from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund web site located at:

http://www.vvmf.org/thewall/Wall_Id_No=16358