

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



CARL WILLIAM HUDGINS, JR.

UNITED STATES NAVY
PHOTOGRAPHER'S MATE
SECOND CLASS (PH2)
1966 – 1969



KILLED IN ACTION, JUNE 8, 1969

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

AUGUST 2025

Becky Doepke, Honoring Her Brother's Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Mary Sibley Chapter, NSDAR



Photographer's Mate Second Class, Carl "Buddy" William Hudgins, Jr., was born in San Francisco, California, on October 18, 1944, and has lived in Belton, Missouri, since 1961. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl William Hudgins, Sr. He graduated from Belton High School in 1962.

PH2 Hudgins joined the Navy in 1966 and received his training at the Naval Air Station, Olathe, Kansas. He attended photography school at the Naval Training Station in Newport, RI. He was sent to Vietnam in July 1968, where he was assigned to the Armed Forces Network Vietnam.

PH2 Hudgins was killed on June 8, 1969, in Da Nang, Vietnam, when the jeep he was in hit a mine. He was 24 and scheduled to return home on July 2nd. According to the June 14, 1969, edition of the Stars and Stripes, Hudgins was a part of

the news team filming the final episode of a six-part series on the activities of military chaplains in Vietnam. The segment, titled "The Circuit Rider", was designed to show chaplains working close to soldiers in combat.

Buddy was awarded the following medals:

Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Vietnam Civil Actions Units Citation, Republic of Vietnam Navy Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Buddy was a member of the Belton Baptist Church, Kappa Alpha fraternity at William Jewell College, an Eagle Scout, and a member of the Boy Scout Order of the Arrow.

Funeral services were held at the Belton Baptist Church, and he was buried in the Belton Cemetery.