

Announcement

**Don Elton Hayes, LM-609
15 July 1947 – 28 January 2024
Rest In Peace**

From Jon Nelson Hayes, LM- 604



*Don Elton Hayes, LM-609
15 July 1947 – 28 Jan 2024
Rest In Peace*

My family and I are sad to announce the death of my twin-brother, Don Elton Hayes, LM-609, on Saturday, Jan 28, 2024.

Don and I were the only twins serving at Bien Hoa AB, 3rd SPS (1967-1968), and during TET, 1968— a rough time for us both. Little did we know Agent Orange would follow us both home from Vietnam and take its toll. Don was seriously ill with agent Orange diseases, suffering greatly, and finally it took his life while he slept. It is a comfort to know he really is in a better place without suffering.

Ironically, Don just received a VA 100% award in April 2023, having filed and was awarded on the first effort. Now I will try to get the VA's surviving spouse's benefits (for 100% veterans) for his wife.

We were very close, but Don just couldn't talk about Tet'68 or Vietnam. In time, I will try to write a story, as I know it, of Don's TET'68 night on the perimeter near the bomb dump area in a tower.

Don will be cremated. Intermittent will be delayed and announced at a later date, perhaps in June.

I will take comfort being with my VSPA brothers at the 2024 reunion, and the dedication of VSPA's beautiful Knife-13 monument.

**Jon Nelson Hayes, LM-604,
Bien Hoa AB, 3rd SPS
1967-1968**



*Don Elton Hayes, LM-609
15 July 1947 – 28 Jan 2024
My he Rest In Eternal Peace*