



In Remembrance

SSgt Mike "Shorty" Long
820th SF Group, Moody AFB

Iraq SFS veteran
September 4th, 2007

Hi, Phil, Don and Bill.

I got the call from one of my pups at Moody at 0630 this morning my time. I talked to Jerry Nelson early this morning. He is in Atlanta. I also talked to Pete Villarreal after I spoke to Bill.

Bill, thanks for sending the message to everyone.

Phil, thank you for making the post on our BB. Jerry Nelson will be in direct contact with the 820th SF Group at Moody as Shorty and many members of the 820th also belong to the Safeside Association.

Mike Long was a great troop and a real pleasure to know. He was in our hospitality room regularly in 2005 and was a big part of the Nemo project when he was at Lackland.

Don, I have attached a photo of Mike with his K-9 partner Rambo. When you have the time, please post his photo on the web site. Further information to follow.

My best to all of you.

Steve

Steve Gattis, President
Vietnam Security Police Association
Life Member #49
Cam Ranh Bay AB 68 - 69

From VSPA Membership Chairman:

This morning VSPA's Kennel Master, Bill Cummings, has been letting folks know that we've lost one of the young dog handlers we supported in Iraq. SSgt Mike "Shorty" Long survived his tour, but crashed his motorcycle here in the US of A, and perished on Saturday. Shorty Long was one of the Pups I corresponded with in Iraq. I don't know whether to cry or to cry.

According to Bill, those of you who attended the VSPA reunion at Valdosta, Georgia, probably met Mike there. Bill met him there, and had established a warm friendship. I didn't have that

pleasure, but enjoyed an ongoing email conversation with this bright, inquisitive and energetic young man during his tour. He had a tremendous curiosity and appreciation for living military history - namely us.

The kennels at Moody are planning on doing something for Mike's family, and a Squadron Memorial Service is tentatively scheduled for Thursday.

Bill is out of town until Friday night, but will pass on further information as he gets it. Steve Gattis and Ernie Childers are also in touch with the Squadron and coordinating our efforts to do "something." Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, please find some room for Mike and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Phil

Funeral of SSgt Charles Michael Long Jr. -- Rick Adams, 823rd CSPS, Wed, Sep 12 2007, 4: 58: 34 PDT (net166-102.xu.edu/205.133.166.102)

The services for SSgt Charles Michael Long Jr. were attended by many many friends and family. The Patriot Guard Riders provided an Honor Guard at the funeral home and an escort to the grave site. At the grave site, in the lush and beautiful Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, full military honors were carried out by a bugler, a rifle squad, pall bearers, Honor Guard and a military Chaplain. Many of Mike's fellow SFS members were in attendance, from Moody AFB, including our Secretary TSgt Sherrie Conkright. Safesider Bob Gainok, his wife, Becky, and I were very honored to be at this service, also. I presented Mike's mother, Jackie, with one of our new challenge coins and Sherrie's husband, Ken will present one to his brother. May he rest in peace and be remembered, always.
Rick

Date Posted: Wed, Sep 12 2007, 5: 40: 14 PDT

Author: Sam Lewis

Subject: Re: Funeral of SSgt Charles Michael Long Jr.

In reply to: Rick Adams, 823rd CSPS 's message, " Funeral of SSgt Charles Michael Long Jr. " on Wed, Sep 12 2007, 4: 58: 34 PDT

Thanks for your report Rick. I am glad that all went as this young hero deserved and my Patriot Guard Riders and others were there to honor him. May he rest in peace indeed. Sam

Date Posted: Wed, Sep 12 2007, 6: 37: 54 PDT

Author: Phil Carroll - LM #336

Subject: Re: Funeral of SSgt Charles Michael Long Jr.

In reply to: Rick Adams, 823rd CSPS 's message, Funeral of SSgt Charles Michael Long Jr. on Wed, Sep 12 2007, 4: 58: 34 PDT

May he rest in peace, and may his family always warmly remember his brave service to our country. He was our Brother, and he will not be forgotten.

Rick, thanks for going and thanks for letting us know.

Phil

From: VSPA Webmaster

We all know the feelings that acCO the sudden loss of a brother warrior, whether in combat or peace. What a wonderful young man... *he wouldn't stop calling me 'Sir.'*

Anyone wishing to add a comment or story for SSgt Mike Long may do so by emailing it to [Don Poss](#).

Don Poss

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