



ROGER WAYNE GRUBBS

(NOVEMBER 14, 1945 - SEPTEMBER 20, 1968)



Enlisted



Seaman E-3



Detachment Cua Viet,
Headquarters

Years of Service: 21 JAN 1963 - 20 SEP 1968

Medals & Awards:

Navy Good Conduct Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Armed Forces Honor Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

One Service Stripe



In 1963, **Seaman (SN) Roger Grubbs** enlisted in the Naval Reserve, and then joined the United States Navy in September, 1966. He earned the Navy Good Conduct Medal the following year. In 1968, SN Grubbs reported for duty at the US Naval Support Activity (NSA) in the port city of DaNang, Vietnam. First commissioned in 1965, the NSA assisted more than 130,000 US and Allied forces in the northernmost provinces in South Vietnam, providing munitions, food, and other military supplies. This primary mission inspired their motto, "They Shall Not Want." Eventually, NSA DaNang became the largest of the Navy's overseas shore commands, as well as the largest combat casualty hospital in Vietnam. SN Grubbs was specifically stationed at a subset of NSA DaNang, Detachment Cua Viet, positioned along the Cua Viet River. Members of this detachment endured difficult conditions, including frequent enemy fire, treacherous shoals and shifting sand bars along navigation routes, as well as the particularly harsh winds and rains of the winter monsoons.

One of five children, Roger Grubbs was born in Appomattox County to Naomi Perdieu and Ernest Grubbs. Roger received his early education in Appomattox Public Schools, and was a member of Old Concord Presbyterian Church, in Spout Spring, Virginia. His parents worked in two of Lynchburg's most important factories, however, and the family eventually moved to the city in the early 1960s. Ernest Grubbs, retired from the Lynchburg Foundry, and died in 1961 at the age of 47. Roger's mother worked at the Craddock-Terry Shoe Corporation until she retired. After Roger joined the Navy, Naomi Grubbs resided first on Taylor Street, and then later on Memorial Avenue and Orchard Street. In a 1970 ceremony, she accepted the Armed Forces Honor Medal, awarded posthumously, on her son's behalf.