



Richard C. Vie
Chairman Emeritus

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To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Keith Thomas

Keith Thomas was an E-5 AC and served in Airborne Early Warning Squadron Pacific Flight Crew 35. We had 12 to 14-hour missions operating out of Midway Island with a flight taking off every 3 hours for 13 years.

Keith was a senior enlisted sailor in our CIC crew and was respected by those under him as well as the officers in our crew. The crew numbered 22 comprised of 3 pilots, 2 navigators, 2 radio men, 2 engineers and the balance being the CIC crew members. Keith's devotion to duty and responsibility was excellent. As I recall, his fitness reports from the CIC officer were usually 4.0.

In January, 1961, we lost a total of 9 officers and men in a crash on Midway Island. Those of us who survived, including Keith, bore some burden as to why we survived. As it turned out, that was Keith's last flight. I was an LTJG serving as second pilot in the crew and became Aircraft Commander of Flight Crew 35.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. C. Vie'.

LTJG Richard C. Vie
639684

RCV/sjl