UCF Veterans Legacy Program

Source Packet Overview

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Tom Davis Jr.

SSGT, Vietnam War

Short Biography

Tom Davis Jr. was born on November 6, 1936, in Aucilla, Jefferson County, FL. He grew up in St. Augustine, FL, where he attended Murray High School. During the Vietnam War, Davis served in the US Army as a staff sergeant with Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division. He was killed in action in Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam, on March 25, 1968, after 10 months of service. He received the Purple Heart for his sacrifice. Staff Sergeant Davis rests in Section B, Site 567, at St. Augustine National Cemetery, FL.

UCF VLP has a mini tour of St. Augustine National Cemetery, featuring Tom Davis Jr., and other Vietnam veterans.

Key Historical Themes & Events

- Grew up in Florida
- 5th Cavalry, 9 Infantry Division
- Vietnam War: Thua Thien Province
- Purple Heart recipient
- St. Augustine National Cemetery

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Source Packet Document List

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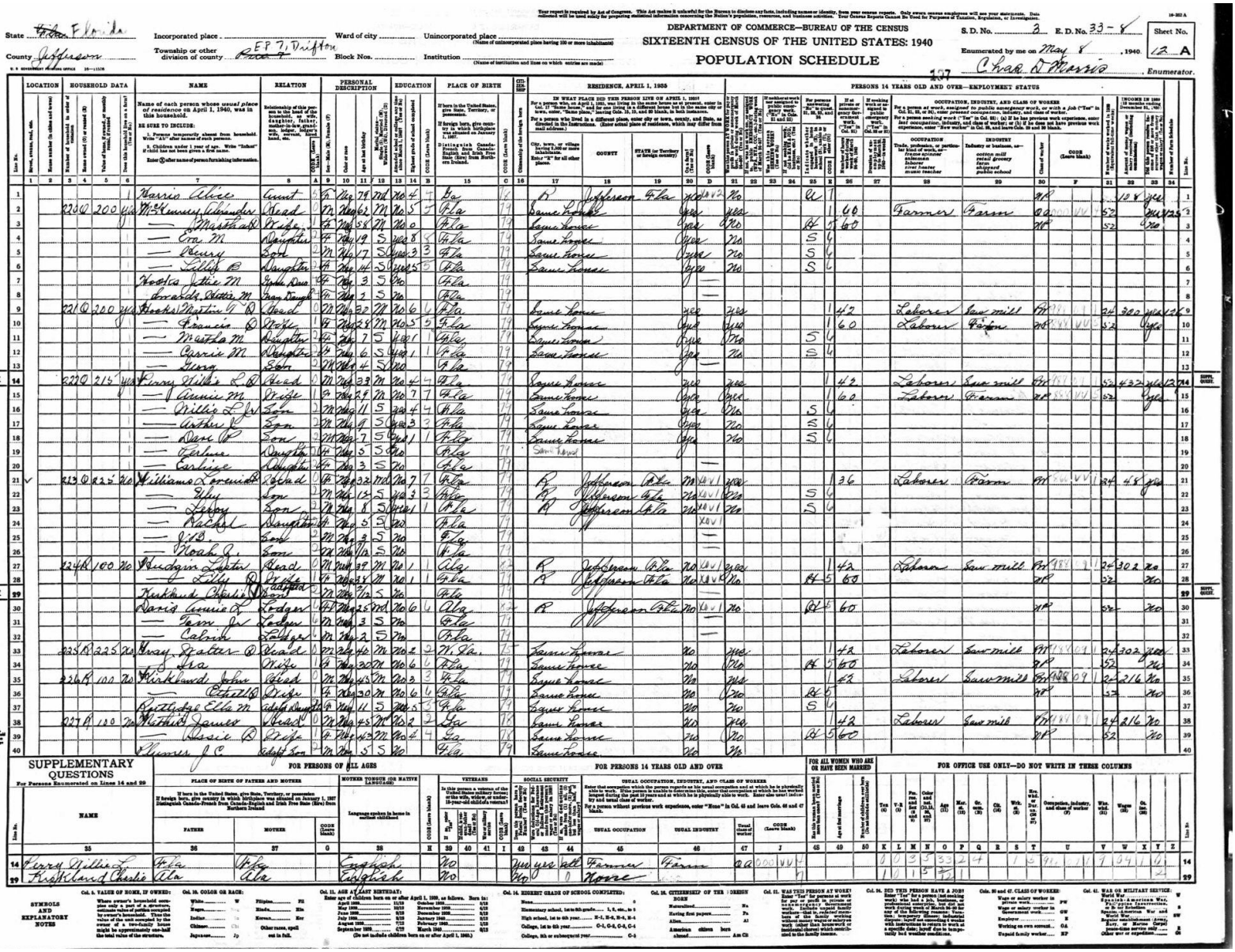
1940 Federal Census



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State Fla. — County Jefferson — Township or other division of county E.D. 7, District 7 — Incorporated place — Ward of city — Unincorporated place — Block Nos. — Institution — S.D. No. 3 — E.D. No. 33-8 — Sheet No. 12A — Enumerated by me on May 8, 1940 — Enumerator. C. Char. D. Marcus

In 1940, 3-year-old Tom Davis (line 31) lived with his mother, Annie, and younger brother, Calvin, in the Hudgins family's home in Jefferson County, FL. Annie, a widow, likely performed housework in exchange for lodging for herself and her children.

"1940 Federal US Census," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed August 13, 2026), entry for Tom Davis Jr.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/m-t0627-00594-00224

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Source Packet Documents

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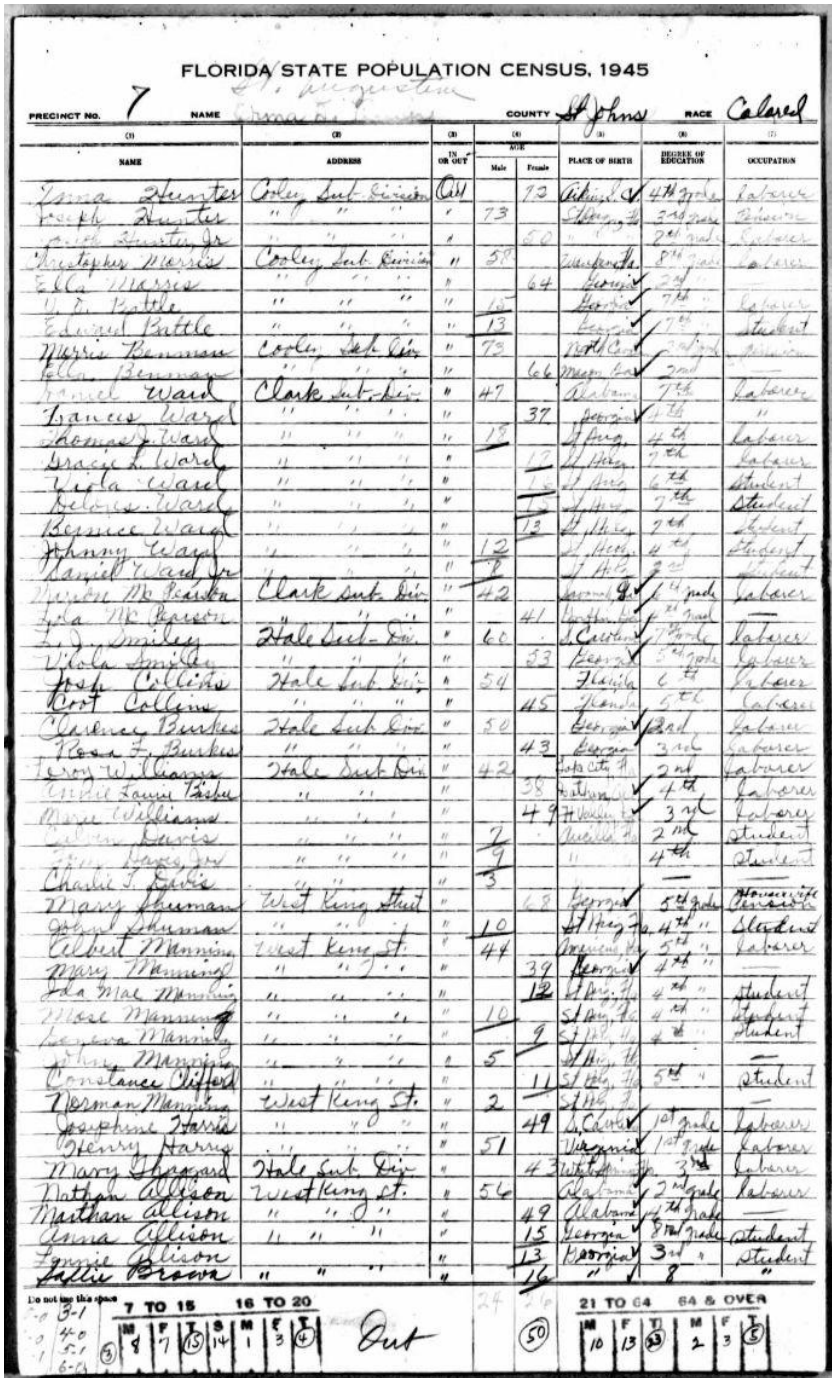
1945 Florida Census



FLORIDA STATE POPULATION CENSUS, 1945

PRECINCT NO. 7 NAME ____ COUNTY St Johns RACE Colored

NAME	ADDRESS	IN OR OUT	AGE Male	AGE Female	PLACE OF BIRTH	DEGREE OF EDUCATION	OCCUPATION
Anna Hunter	Coley Sub Division	Out		72	Florida	4th grade	Laborer
Joseph Hunter	" " "	"	73		Georgia	3rd grade	Laborer
Keith Hunter Jr	" " "	"		50		2nd grade	Laborer
Christopher Marcis	Coley Sub Division	"	58		Florida	8th grade	Laborer
Ella Marcis	" " "	"		64	Georgia	2nd grade	
W. D. Battle	" " "	"	65		Georgia	7th grade	Laborer
Edward Battle	" " "	"	13		Georgia	7th grade	Student
Myrtis Brannan	Coley Sub Div	"	73		North Carolina	3rd grade	Laborer
Ella Brannan	" " "	"		66	Mississippi	2nd grade	
Daniel Ward	Clark Sub Div	"	47		Alabama	7th grade	Laborer
Frances Ward	" " "	"		37	Georgia	4th grade	"
Thomas J. Ward	" " "	"	13		Florida	4th grade	Laborer
Gracie L. Ward	" " "	"		12	Florida	7th grade	Laborer
Viola Ward	" " "	"		15	Florida	6th grade	Student
Delores Ward	" " "	"		7	Florida	2nd grade	Student
Bernice Ward	" " "	"		12	Florida	7th grade	Student
Johnny Ward	" " "	"	12		Florida	4th grade	Student
Daniel Ward Jr	" " "	"	9		Florida	2nd grade	
Myron M. Pearson	Clark Sub Div	"	42		Georgia	4th grade	Laborer
Ida M. Pearson	" " "	"		41	Georgia	2nd grade	
D. Smiley	Hale Sub Div	"	60		Florida	7th grade	Laborer
Viola Smiley	" " "	"		53	Georgia	5th grade	Laborer
Josh Collins	Hale Sub Div	"	54		Florida	6th	Laborer
Bert Collins	" " "	"		45	Florida	5th	Laborer
Clarence Burkes	Hale Sub Div	"	50		Georgia	3rd	Laborer
Rosa F. Burkes	" " "	"		43	Georgia	3rd	Laborer
Leroy Williams	Hale Sub Div	"	42		South Carolina	2nd	Laborer
Ethel Lavie Tisbe	" "	"		38	Florida	4th	Laborer
Marie Williams	" "	"		49	Florida	3rd	Laborer
Annie Davis	" " "	"	7		Florida	2nd	Student
Tom Davis Jr	" " "	"	9		"	4th	Student
Charlie T. Davis	" " "	"	3				
Mary Sherman	West King Street	"		68	Georgia	5th grade	Housewife
Joseph Sherman	" " "	"	10		St Johns Co	4th "	Student
Albert Manning	West King St	"	44		Florida	5th "	Laborer
Mary Manning	" " "	"		39	Georgia	4th "	
Ida Mae Manning	" " "	"		12	St Johns Co	4th "	Student
Moses Manning	" " "	"	10		St Johns Co	4th "	Student
Lavera Manning	" " "	"	9		St Johns Co	4th "	Student
Mary Manning	" " "	"			St Johns Co		
Constance Clifford	" " "	"	5		St Johns Co		
Norman Manning	West King St.	"	2	11	St Johns Co	5th "	Student
Josephine Harris	" " "	"		49	St Calvin	1st grade	Laborer
Henry Harris	" " "	"	51		Virginia	1st "	Laborer
Mary Shepard	Hale Sub Div	"		43	Florida	3rd	Laborer
Nathan Allison	West King St.	"	56		Oklahoma	2nd grade	Laborer
Marthan Allison	" " "	"		49	Alabama	2nd grade	
Anna Allison	" " "	"		15	Georgia	8th grade	Student
Lizzie Allison	" " "	"		13	Georgia	3rd "	Student
Sallie Brown	" " "	"		16	"	8 "	

Do not use this space

7 TO 15			16 TO 20			21 TO 64			64 & OVER		
M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
8	7	15	1	3	4	10	13	23	2	3	5

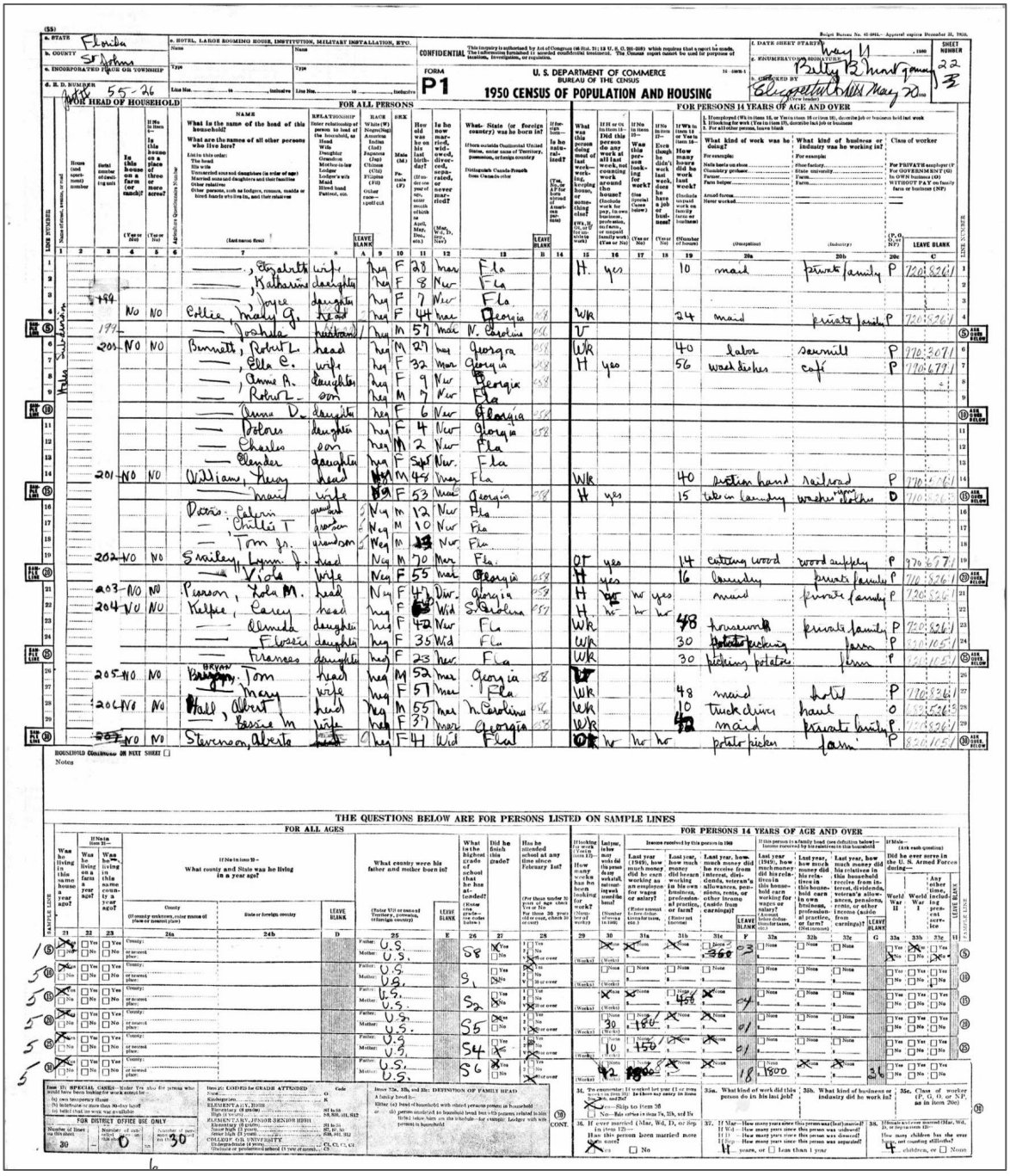
Out 24 50

By 1945, the Davis family (midway down) had moved to St. Augustine, FL, where they lived with Leroy and Marie Williams. Annie, Davis' mother, worked as a laborer. Tom (9) attended 4th grade, his brother Calvin (7) attended 2nd grade, and Charlie was 3 years old.

"Florida, U.S., State Census, 1867-1945," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed August 13, 2026), Entry for Tom Davis Jr.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1506/images/CSUSAFL1867_089332-00975

1950 Federal Census



In 1950, Tom Davis (line 18) and his brothers, Calvin and Charlie, still lived in St. Johns County, FL with their grandparents Leroy and Marie Williams. Their mother, Annie Davis, did not appear to live with them, likely working outside the family home.

"1950 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed September 10, 2026), entry for Tom Davis Jr.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-Florida-151362-0023

Photo of Tom Davis in Uniform

Tom Davis poses with an M113 armored personnel carrier. The insignia on his sleeve identifies his rank as Sergeant. He wears a cord on each shoulder. On the right side, the cord (light blue) represents the unique place the infantry holds within the Army, while the one on his left shoulder is a foreign unit decoration (French or Belgian) awarded to his unit for its service during World War II, representing the Army's tradition of carrying forward honors earned by earlier generations of soldiers.

"Davis, Tom, Jr., SSG," database, *Fold3* (fold3.com: Accessed August 19, 2026), entry for Tom Davis Jr.

https://www.fold3.com/image/709756594/davis-tom-jr-ssg?terms=davis%2Cjr%2Ctom

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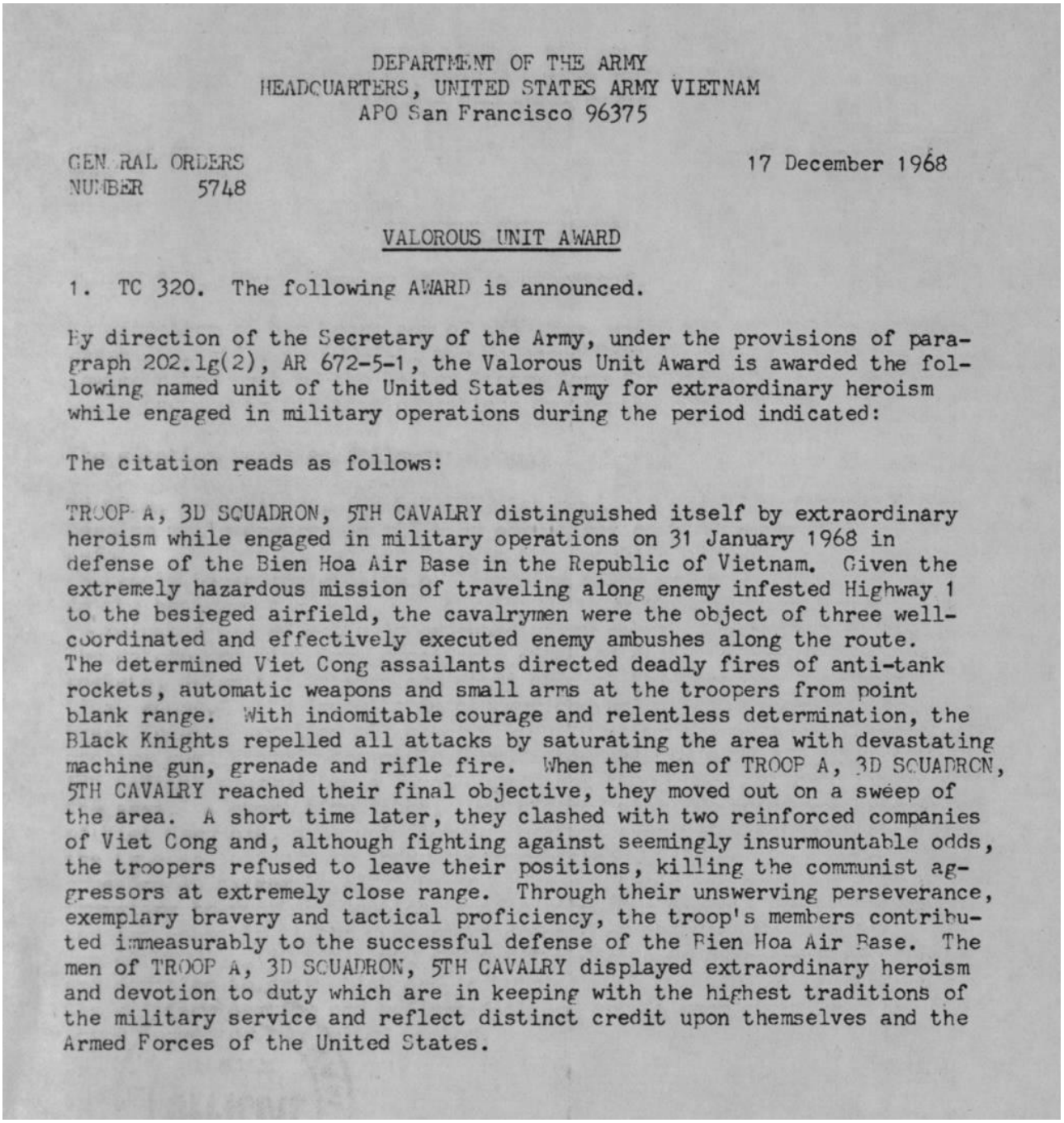
Unit Citation: January 1968



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 5748

17 December 1968

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1g(2), AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded the following named unit of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 31 January 1968 in defense of the Bien Hoa Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam. Given the extremely hazardous mission of traveling along enemy infested Highway 1 to the besieged airfield, the cavalrymen were the object of three well-coordinated and effectively executed enemy ambushes along the route. The determined Viet Cong assailants directed deadly fires of anti-tank rockets, automatic weapons and small arms at the troopers from point blank range. With indomitable courage and relentless determination, the Black Knights repelled all attacks by saturating the area with devastating machine gun, grenade and rifle fire. When the men of TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY reached their final objective, they moved out on a sweep of the area. A short time later, they clashed with two reinforced companies of Viet Cong and, although fighting against seemingly insurmountable odds, the troopers refused to leave their positions, killing the communist aggressors at extremely close range. Through their unswerving perseverance, exemplary bravery and tactical proficiency, the troop's members contributed immeasurably to the successful defense of the Bien Hoa Air Base. The men of TROOP A, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

A unit citation for Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, recognizes its actions during the defense of Bien Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam, on January 31, 1968. The citation describes 3 ambushes on the road to the base and fierce close-range fighting against a larger enemy force. Davis joined the unit 6 days later.

"US, Vietnam Service Awards, 1965-1973," database, *Fold3* (fold3.com: accessed August 19, 2026), entry for Tom Davis Jr.

https://www.fold3.com/image/268909100/1969-page-20-us-vietnam-service-awards-1965-1973

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Transcription of an Article from *The St. Augustine Record* : Death Notice

Resident's Son Killed in Action

S/Sgt. Tom Davis Jr. Son of Mrs. Annie L. Davis of St. Augustine, was killed in Vietnam March 28 while on a combat operation, according to information received here.

S/Sgt. Davis, about 24, had been a resident of Blackstone, Va. for the past several years. He was born in St. Augustine and attended Murray High School before entering the service.

Besides his mother, survivors here include a brother, Calvin Davis, and an uncle, Samuel Cummings.

Other survivors include his wife, Mrs. Bertha Davis, Blackstone; his grandmother, Mrs. Marie Williams , Ft. Lauderdale, an aunt, Mrs. Thelma Fisher, Ft. Lauderdale; two uncles, Otis and Robert Cummings, Cleveland, Ohio.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by Chase Funeral Home.

The April 1, 1968 edition of *The St. Augustine Record* announced S/Sgt. Tom Davis's death in action in Vietnam. The article noted that he attended Murray High School and listed his surviving family members. The paper also indicated that the US Army promoted Davis from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant. It also reported his age as about 24; yet other records indicates that he was born in 1936 or 1937, putting him in his early 30s. The article also gave his date of death as March 28, while casualty records list March 25; the later date may be the date the Army notified his family of his death.

"Resident's Son Killed in Action," *The St. Augustine Record* (St. Augustine, Florida), April 1, 1968, Newspapers.com.

https://www.newspapers.com/image/1271631740/

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Transcription of an Article from *The St. Augustine Record*: Funeral Notice

S/Sgt. Tom Davis

Funeral Services for S/Sgt. Tom Davis Jr., son of Mrs. Annie L. Davis of St. Augustine, will be held at 2 p.m. Monday in the Tabernacle Baptist Church with the Rev. R.L. Whitaker officiating. Burial will be in National Cemetery with Full military rites to be accorded by personnel from Fort Stewart, Savannah, Ga.

S/Sgt. Davis, Blackstone, Va., was killed in Vietnam March 28 while on a combat operation, according to information received here.

Besides his mother, survivors include a brother, Calvin Davis, and an Uncle, Samuel Cummings.

Other Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Bertha Davis, Blackstone; grandmother, Mrs. Marie Williams, Ft. Lauderdale; aunt, Mrs. Thelma Fisher, Ft. Lauderdale; two uncles, Otis and Robert Cummings, Cleveland, Ohio, and other relatives.

The Leo C. Chase Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

The April 6, 1968 edition of *The St. Augustine Record* announced Tom Davis Jr.'s funeral for April 8 at St. Augustine National Cemetery, St. Augustine, FL. The personnel from Fort Stewart, Savannah, GA performed full military rites during the ceremony. As in the April 1 article, the newspaper listed his date of death as March 28 again.

"S/Sgt. Tom Davis," *The St. Augustine Record* (St. Augustine, Florida), April 6, 1968, Newspapers.com.

https://www.newspapers.com/image/1271634702/.

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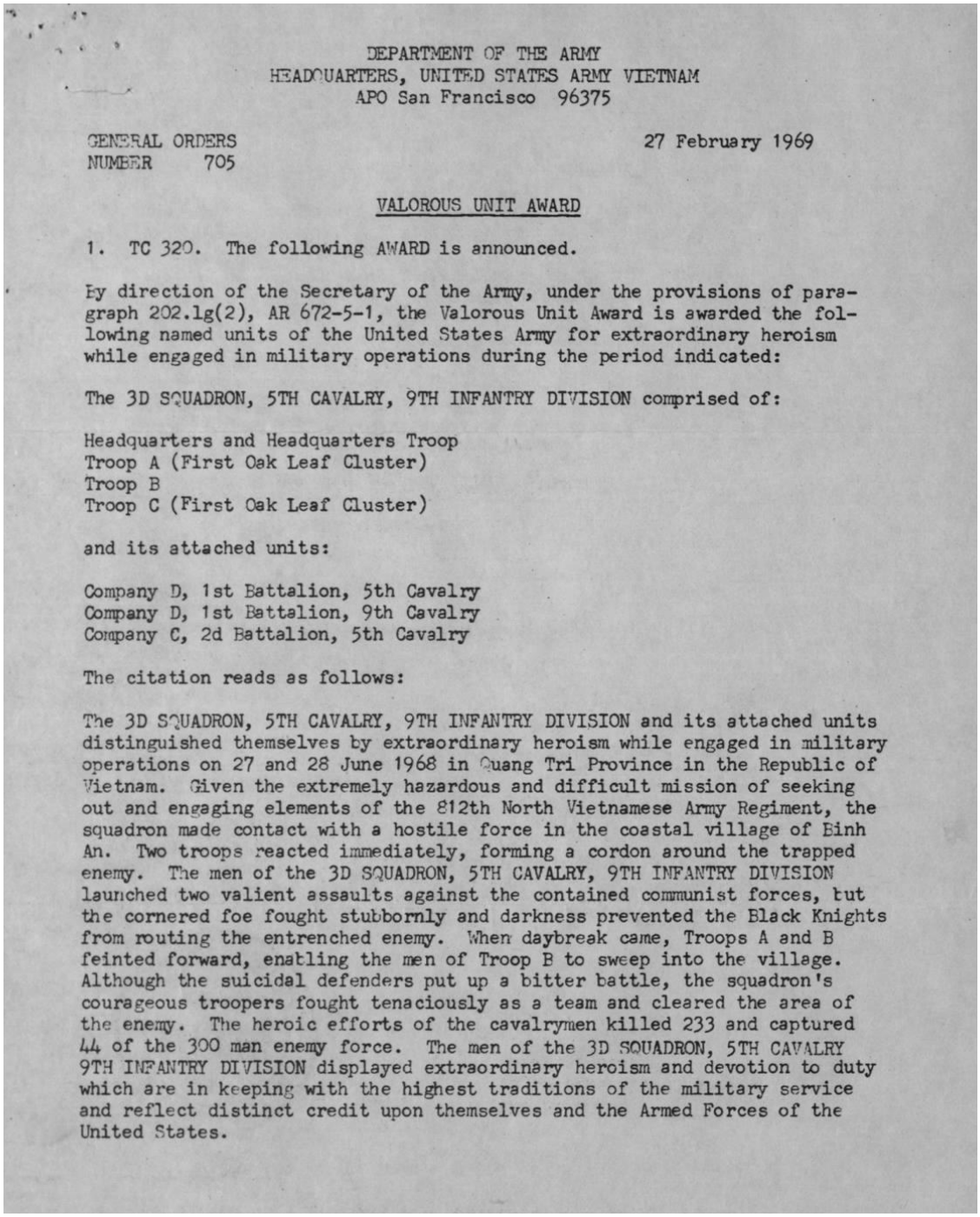
Unit Citation: June 1968



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96375

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 705

27 February 1969

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 202.1g(2), AR 672-5-1, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded the following named units of the United States Army for extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations during the period indicated:

The 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION comprised of:

Headquarters and Headquarters Troop
Troop A (First Oak Leaf Cluster)
Troop B
Troop C (First Oak Leaf Cluster)

and its attached units:

Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry
Company D, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry
Company C, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry

The citation reads as follows:

The 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION and its attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism while engaged in military operations on 27 and 28 June 1968 in Quang Tri Province in the Republic of Vietnam. Given the extremely hazardous and difficult mission of seeking out and engaging elements of the 812th North Vietnamese Army Regiment, the squadron made contact with a hostile force in the coastal village of Binh An. Two troops reacted immediately, forming a cordon around the trapped enemy. The men of the 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION launched two valient assaults against the contained communist forces, but the cornered foe fought stubbornly and darkness prevented the Black Knights from routing the entrenched enemy. When daybreak came, Troops A and B feinted forward, enabling the men of Troop B to sweep into the village. Although the suicidal defenders put up a bitter battle, the squadron's courageous troopers fought tenaciously as a team and cleared the area of the enemy. The heroic efforts of the cavalrymen killed 233 and captured 44 of the 300 man enemy force. The men of the 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

A unit citation for 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division awarded its actions in Quang Tri Province, Central Vietnam, on June 27-28, 1968. The citation states that the unit trapped and destroyed elements of the 812th North Vietnamese Army Regiment. This engagement occurred only 3 months after Davis was killed in action, illustrating the intensity of the combat the 5th Cavalry continued to face.

"US, Vietnam Service Awards, 1965-1973, Database, *Fold 3* (fold3.com: accessed August 19, 2026), entry for Tom Davis Jr.

https://www.fold3.com/image/268910122/1969-page-10-us-vietnam-service-awards-1965-1973

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Vietnam Casualty List for the 9th Infantry Division

SGT CHARLES EDWARD DAVID JR 15759935 03 SEP 1968

SP4 WILLIAM JAMES DAVIDSON JR 52809162 28 JAN 1968

MAJ ARTHUR DAVIES JR OF102845 27 APR 1967

SGT THOMAS ALPHONSE DAVINO 54805792 03 JUL 1968

1LT CHARLES WILLIAM DAVIS O5334858 06 OCT 1967

SGT DALE LEROY DAVIS 56830349 15 OCT 1968

SGT JAMES MARK DAVIS 526809002 08 MAY 1970

PFC JOHN PAUL DAVIS 12967816 11 JAN 1969

PFC ROBERT ALLEN DAVIS 55891297 22 JUN 1967

PFC RONALD CALEB DAVIS 55873347 26 MAR 1967

SSG SAMUEL LUTHER DAVIS 14261094 06 APR 1968

1LT TERRY LEE DAVIS O5343795 15 JUL 1968

SSG TOM DAVIS JR 53290156 25 MAR 1968

SSG WILLIAM DEWITT DAVIS 14473577 11 DEC 1967

SGT EUGENE DAWSON 52628649 17 MAY 1967

SP5 ARTHUR MICHAEL DAY 11868424 08 MAY 1969

PFC WILLIAM LESLIE DAZEY JR 56959011 30 JAN 1968

SP5 EDWARD CARL DE BOW 11884986 18 MAR 1969

PFC JOSE CELS DE JESUS-COLON 67033283 07 AUG 1968

SGT ANTONIO H DE LA CERDA JR 15833767 31 OCT 1968

CPL LARRY A DE LA ROSA JR 66001907 25 FEB 1968

SP4 RAYMOND PAUL DE LUCA 11933855 27 JUN 1968

SSG FRANK JOHN DE MARCO 19616584 29 AUG 1967

Tom Davis Jr.'s name appears in the center of the Vietnam War Casualty list in the 9th Infantry Division unit history.

"Unit History - US, 9th Infantry Division, 1907-2004," database, *Fold3* (fold3.com: Accessed September 10, 2026), entry for Tom Davis Jr.

https://www.fold3.com/image/676397415/1966-1970-vietnam-casualties-list-page-26-unit-history-us-9th-infantry-division-1907-2004

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The US Vietnam War Casualty List

Name	Tom Davis Jr
Birth Date	6 Nov 1936
Death Date	25 Mar 1968
Gender	Male
Age	31
Race	Negro (Black)
Home City	St Augustine
Home State	Florida
Religion	Baptist - Other Groups
Marital Status	Married (Spouse Listed) (Married)
SSN/Service #	53290156
Citizen Status	U.S.
Death Date	25 Mar 1968
Processed Date	Mar 1968
Casualty Country	Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam)
Casualty Type	Hostile - Killed
Casualty Reason	Gunshot or Small Arms Fire
Casualty Air	Ground Casualty
Body Status	Body Recovered
Service Branch	Department of the Army
Component	Regular (RA, USN, USAF, USMC, USCG)
Military Grade	Staff Sergeant
Pay Grade	Specialist Sixth Class (U.S. Army) or Staff Sergeant (U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps) or Technical Sergeant (U.S. Air Force) or Grade/Rate Abbreviations With First Column: Any Entry; Second Column: Any Entry; Third Column: 1; Fourth Column: Blank (U.S. Navy
Province	Military Region 1 - Thua Thien
Length of Service	10
Service Occupation	Armor Crewman (ARMY)
Data Source	Combat Area Casualties Current File

The transcription of Davis' record from the US Vietnam War casualty list states that he was killed on March 25, 1968 in Thua Thien Province, Vietnam after 10 months of service.

"Combat Area Casualties Current File, 6/8/1956 - 1/21/1998," National Archives and Records Administration, found in "U.S., Vietnam War Military Casualties, 1956-1998," in database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed September 10, 2026), entry for Tom Davis Jr. https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3095/records/81217.

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Gravesite Record

Name	Tom Davis Jr
Death Age	32 [32]
Birth Date	16 Jan 1936
Death Date	25 Mar 1968
Interment Place	Florida, USA
Cemetery Address	104 Marine Street St. Augustine, FL 32084
Cemetery	Saint Augustine National Cemetery
Plot	Section B Site 567
Notes	Ssgt Us Army Vietnam

The transcription of Tom Davis Jr.'s gravesite record indicates that he is interred at Section B, Site 567 at St. Augustine National Cemetery at St. Augustine, FL. The record incorrectly lists Tom Davis Jr.'s birth date as January 16, 1936, while his headstone gives his birth date as November 6, 1936.

"U.S., Veterans' Gravesites, ca.1775-2019,"database, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed September 10, 2026), entry for Tom Davis Jr.

https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8750/records/4025998?tid=&pid=&queryId=00aefbc2-b920-4628-94ca-af96855351f7&_phsrc=OuE267&_phstart=successSource

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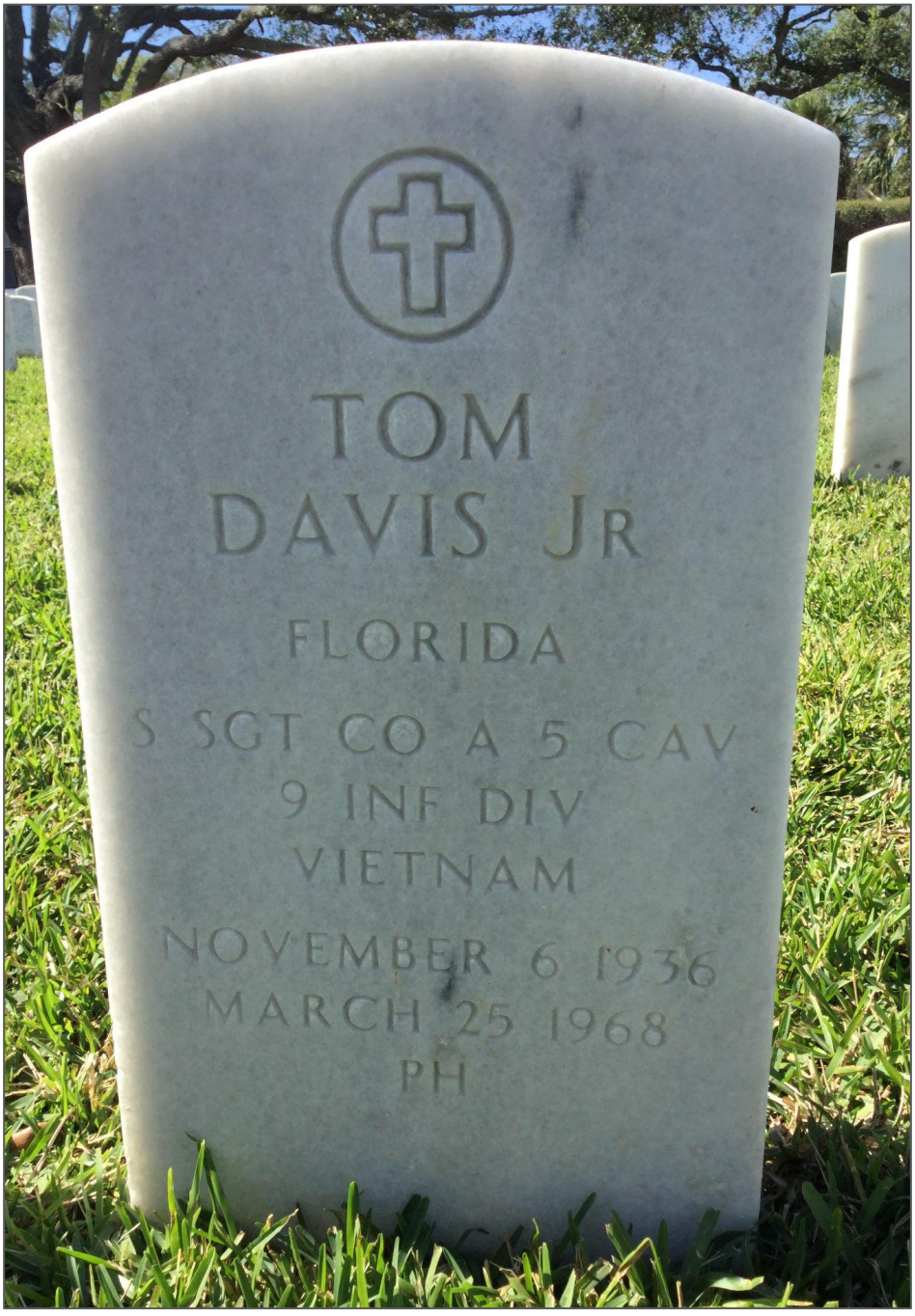
Headstone



Tom Davis' headstone located at Section B, Site 567 at St. Augustine National Cemetery in St. Augustine, FL. It indicates that he earned a Purple Heart, likely when he was killed.

UCF VLP Archives

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