



# Remembrance



## Vietnam Faces of the Fallen Princeton Class of 1966

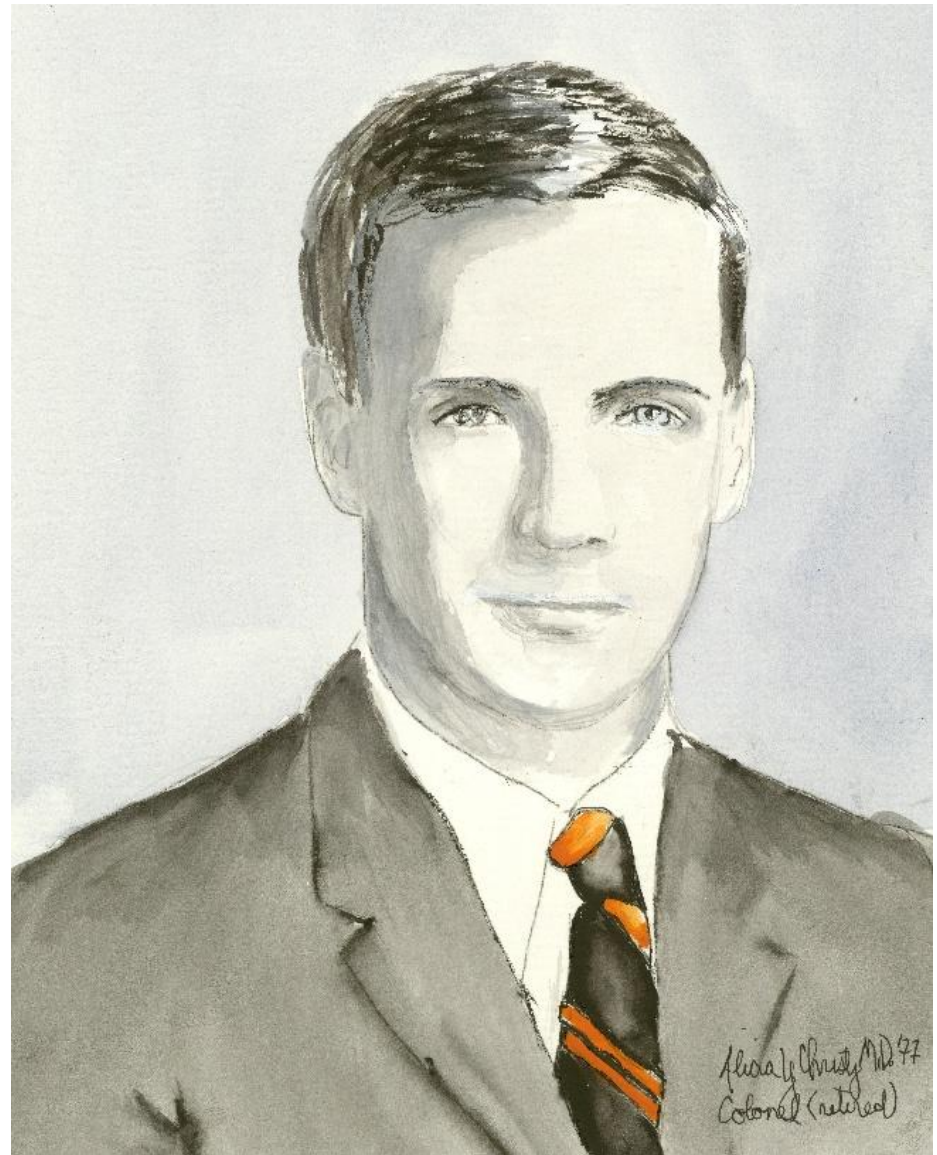
### *Robert Hall Purrington*

Robert Hall Purrington was born on June 5th, 1943 in Hartford, Connecticut, to Wilbur and Patricia Purrington. He attended the Loomis School in Windsor, Connecticut. While there, he was a member of the wrestling and sailing teams.

At Princeton University, Purrington was a member of Cap and Gown and served as commodore of the Princeton Yacht Club. He majored in economics, writing his thesis on the Markowitz Model, and planned to pursue a career in banking or finance after enlisting in the U.S. Navy.

After graduation in 1966, Purrington attended flight training school, and later served as a jet pilot aboard the U.S.S. Coral Sea in Attack Bomber Squadron 86. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant and flew 121 combat missions over Indochina, visiting troops in Cambodia and South Vietnam.

In 1970, Purrington returned to the United States and settled in Kingsville, Texas, with his new wife Shirley Smith. There, he worked as a flight instructor for approximately one year. On February 27th, 1971, Purrington succumbed to leukemia at Philadelphia Naval Hospital. He was 28 years old. In his honor and in remembrance of his lifelong love of sailing, the Lt. Robert H. Purrington Trophy was established by the Middle Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association, awarded to a graduating senior “who has made outstanding contributions to college sailing”.



Biography created by Uniting US, a veteran led nonprofit with a mission to honor service and recognize the sacrifice military service requires of the military member, family members, and communities. **Remembrance – Vietnam Faces of the Fallen Princeton Class of 1966** is a documentary featuring the portraits and stories of the five 1966 alumni who lost their lives in military service during the Vietnam War era. Honoring the fallen heroes and all who have served the Nation, classmates and friends share perspectives about student life on campus, Vietnam experiences after graduation, and 60 years of personal reflections.

The Remembrance artwork, film, and additional materials were created and compiled by UnitingUS.org. Uniting US veteran artist Alicia Christy, MD, Army Col (ret.), Princeton Class of '77 and veteran artist Patrick Dowden, Coast Guard (ret.) created the portraits and Remembrance artwork. Learn more about Uniting US and these artists at [UNITINGUS.ORG](http://UNITINGUS.ORG).