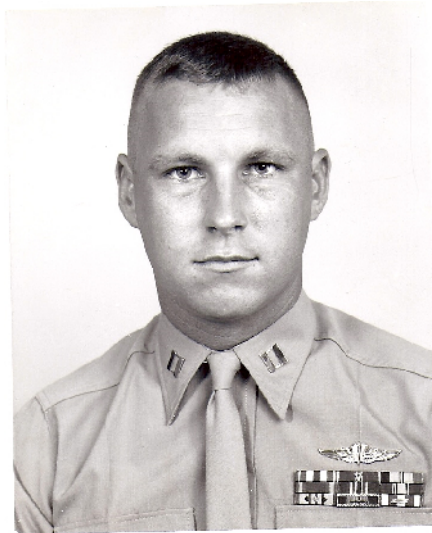
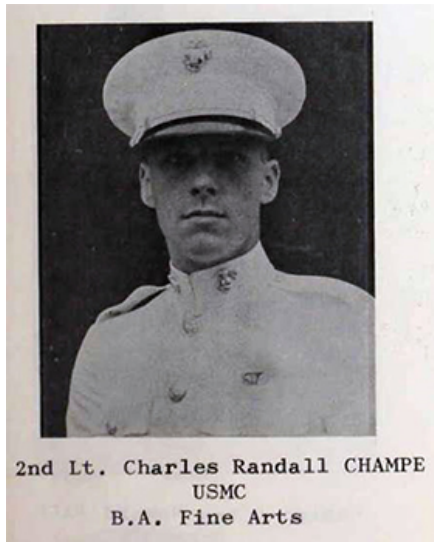


**Champe, Charles Randall (Randy), 1st Platoon**

13 February 1945 - 13 June 1991

Santa Fe Natl Cemetery, NM



Randy Champe was born 13 February 1945 in Charleston, West Virginia. His love of adventure was well suited to the family's move to Albuquerque, New Mexico in his early years. With the loving guidance of his father, Charlie Champe, Randy earned his Eagle Scout. He graduated from the University of New Mexico, 1967. He was in the NROTC with a Marine Corps option. During his seven years as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, he was awarded the nation's third highest combat award, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with the combat V and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry among other distinctions while serving as a Tank Commander and as a Force Recon Marine.

In 1973, Randy joined the Los Angeles Police Department. As his wife, Sue's, grandmother said, "Randy went from the front lines of the country to the front lines of the country." Serving and protecting with distinction, he worked first the streets and then the skies of L.A. as an observer in the Air Support Division. From 1983-1986, Randy was a policeman on the Houston Police Department. Upon his return to Los Angeles, he was immediately accepted back into Air Support Division.

Randy was killed in the line of duty, 13 June 1991, at the age of 46, when the helicopter crashed due to equipment failure that he and pilot Gary Howe were flying in over South Central Los Angeles. In attempting an emergency landing, through their dedication and expertise, they were able to avoid the primary emergency landing zone, a school yard full of children on recess. They also avoided the secondary zone, a roadway with a school bus, child and adult in the path, and put the ship down in a vacant lot with abandoned cars on it. Both perished upon impact. Randy loved helping his fellow officers by being their "eyes in the sky."

Posthumously, Randy was awarded LAPD's highest honor, the Medal of Valor. Randy was also awarded LAPD's Purple Heart and in 2014, two signs were unveiled with Randy's and Gary's names, and erected at the crash site.

**USMC Resume:**

The Basic School Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Jun-Nov 1967  
Vietnam: Three tours (C/1st Tanks Company; two tours with 1st Force Recon)

**Personal Reflections about Randy Champe:**