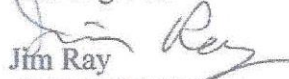


Gus, here's all the info I have on the O'Neal Rucker family finding and meeting O'Neal's daughter that no one knew about until a few months ago.

First, some back ground. I first heard about John O'Neal Rucker when I received my copy of the Stinger / Shadow book in 2009. I read it cover to cover right after I got it. On page 280 was the sad story of young crew chief O'Neal Rucker, (his family all call him O'Neal, not John). I noted he was buried in Linden, TX, a small town about 1, 1/2 hours ride north of my home in Palestine, TX. On the following Veterans Day I didn't have anything to do so I decided to run up to Linden on my Harley to visit his grave and see the monument that had been put up in his honor. When I arrived at the court house, I noticed quit a few folks standing around. I asked some one what was going on and was told that the town was holding a ceremony to honor O'Neal. One of his family, (sister Marsha I think) saw me standing to the side and came over to me to see who I was. When she saw the "Stinger" patch on my leather vest, she called the rest of the family over to meet me. I met and became friends with the whole family. I told them that I rode with a group called "Run For The Wall, (RFTW)" and went from LA to DC every year in May. From that Nov. to the next May we talked several times. They now all live in and around Kilgore, TX. I asked them if I could take anything to the Wall for them and if I could dedicate my ride to O'Neal. Most of us who have ridden with RFTW for several years always have some one we ride for. (Our motto is "We ride for those who can't"). They got together a picture of O'Neal and some mementoes to take to the Wall. I also had a patch made for my vest with O'Neal's name and date and place KIA'ed and wore it for the 2010 run. I gave that patch to his mom, Mae Rucker. As I said, I've become close friends with the whole family and meet with them several times a year.

About 2 months ago Mary Rucker, Frank's wife, called me to tell me that they had meet Tia McConnell, O'Neal's daughter! Mary told me about how Tia had been searching for her American father and her Vietnamese mother, (no luck on the mother yet). You can get more info from the things Tia wrote and the news paper I've enclosed. Please let me know if anyone knows the guy in the brown shirt so I can tell Tia. She's going back to Vietnam in a couple of months to try and find her mom or family.

That's it for now. If you have any questions or need other info, call me and I'll do my best to get it.


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WHO IS THIS



MARYKA FELKOW CREW CHIEF
THAT WORKED WITH O'NEAL.

IF ANYONE KNOWS HIM, MAYBE
HE CAN HELP ID THE GIRL
IN THE BLACK TOP FOR TIA.

MIGHT BE HER MOM OR KNOW
OF HER WHEREABOUTS.

WHO IS THIS?



O'NEAL



MARY TIA'S MOM

