

AMERICAN FORK CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 12, 2023
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

ATTACHMENT

Members Present:

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| Bradley J. Frost | Mayor |
| Kevin Barnes | Council Member |
| Staci Carroll | Council Member |
| Ryan Hunter | Council Member |
| Rob Shelton | Council Member |
| Clark Taylor | Council Member |

Staff Present:

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| David Bunker | City Administrator |
| Terilyn Lurker | City Recorder |
| Derric Rykert | Community Services Director |
| Patrick O'Brien | Development Services Director |
| Loralee Miller | Executive Assistant |
| Anna Montoya | Finance Officer |
| Aaron Brems | Fire Chief |
| George Schade | IT Director |
| Cherylyn Egner | Legal Counsel |
| Stuart Fore | Police Lieutenant |

Also present: Ernie John, Tim Holley, Melissa Shelton and family, Donna Barnes, family of Capt. James Chipman, Tyler Horan, and two additional citizens.

The American Fork City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in the American Fork City Hall, 31 North Church Street, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

1. Pledge of Allegiance; Invocation by Council Member Taylor; roll call.
Mayor Frost welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation was offered by Council Member Taylor. Roll call was taken.
2. Presentation of the HERO Award to US Marine Corps Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman.
Mayor Frost invited the family of Captain Jim Chipman forward to receive the HERO Award.

Mayor Frost commented that the highlight of his service as mayor are the events of the past few months. As the city learned about Capt. Chipman, they looked back to what it meant to the citizens of American Fork, and they located several articles from the early 1970s to the present. Mayor Frost read the following:

On Dec. 27, 1972, Captain Ralph Jim Chipman was piloting an A-6A Intruder, along with his co-pilot, Capt. Ronald Wayne Forrester, during a nighttime

combat mission over the northern part of the Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam.

After entering the target area, Chipman's aircraft ceased radio communications and never returned to base. Search and rescue teams could not locate any trace of the aircraft or the crew. In July, 1974, the Marine Corps reported Capt. Chipman as Killed in Action. Chipman left behind his wife, Susan, four-year-old son Scot, and 18-month-old son, Matthew.

Since then, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has been working to account for Capt. Chipman and other soldiers who were prisoners of war or went missing in action. Investigators conducted two excavations over the past few months and were able to find Chipman's dog tag, some bone fragments, and teeth positively matching him through DNA testing and dental evidence.

On Thursday November 9 his remains arrived at the Salt Lake City International Airport and were escorted to Anderson & Sons Mortuary in American Fork. The escort to American Fork included Capt. Chipman's family, members from the American Fork Police, Utah Highway Patrol, and the Patriot Guard Riders.

On November 11, 2023, U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman was honored for his sacrifice in the Vietnam War and was finally laid to rest.

Capt. Chipman is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Wall of Faces.

The Freedom Tree in Robinson Park was dedicated in 1973 in the name of Capt. Chipman and all of the other persons missing in action or held as prisoners of war. The tree is now lit in red, white, and blue to honor their sacrifice and remember them.

Capt. Chipman has made a lasting impact on the City of American Fork. He is a hero to us all. For these reasons we want to honor Capt. Chipman posthumously by giving him this Hero Award and declaring November 9, 2023, the day he returned home, Captain Ralph Jim Chipman in American Fork City.

Mayor Frost noted they have found Captain Forrester. He expressed his feelings of the day, that this was the honor of his life. The procession was flawless, and when they entered the city boundaries there were tears in their eyes.

Mayor Frost presented the family with plaques from the city and on behalf of the mayor, council, staff, and citizens of American Fork, offered them our condolences and debt of gratitude, with a hope they honored him with respect.

Susan Richards, wife of Capt. Chipman, expressed their appreciation for all that has been done for her husband. She stated it was a nice occasion for everyone to honor him and all veterans. She stated that Vietnam Vets were not respected when they returned home, and Capt. Chipman would not have received this welcome home if he had turned home then.

She was grateful for the mayor and city for all that had been done to make this a special occasion.

3. Honoring Council Member Shelton and Council Member Barnes for their service on the City Council.

Mayor Frost invited Council Members Rob Shelton and Kevin Barnes to come forward to honor them for their years of service on the city council. Mayor Frost read off statistics and the list of committees that Council Member Shelton and Council Member Barnes have served on over the years. He noted the events that have happened during their tenure on the city council, such as the rehab of the Cave Camp Spring, growth of financial strength with a great fund balance, a AA- bond rating which is the best bond rating a city can receive, smart growth and housing by master planning the TOD and acquired funding to make that happen, increased funding for road improvements as well as other vital infrastructure, Fire Station 52, secondary water metering installation program through grants, ushered in the PARC Tax. Mayor Frost then went over some PARC accomplishments that have happened, including finishing the Art Dye Sports Complex, pickleball, dog park, 3 new parks and improvements to most parks and trails while securing 30 acres for a regional park on the south side. Council Members Shelton and Barnes have been a part of the city re-branding, growth in technology with utility billing, business licenses, forms, development review, parks on smart watering, a fiber project. Mayor Frost noted three major events that happened during their tenure, including COVID 19 in 2020, three years of drought and advocating for water conservation, and the record-breaking water runoff this past spring.

Mayor Frost recognized them for their accomplishments and presented them with bricks from Historic City Hall. He thanked them for their service and all they have done for the city of American Fork.

Council Member Shelton stated it was humbling to hear the many accomplishments that took place, but noted it was a team effort. This last year, knowing he wasn't going to run for re-election, he reflected on his first time participating in the Steel Days parade. He did not know many of the citizens, but this last year as he participated in the parade, he knew the citizens. The best advice he received was to stay close to the people, and he passed that on to Ernie John and Tim Holley. Council Member Shelton stated he had the support of his amazing family; his wife understood the patience needed and the time away from family that took place. She has been very supportive. He appreciated the staff, and he treasured the relationships gained.

Council Member Barnes commented that when he first ran, the state of Utah was thinking of building a prison and one possible location was in Saratoga Springs. That summer during his campaign, he attended training with other council candidates, and most were running on the platform of no prison in Saratoga Springs. Between the primary and when they were elected, the state changed location. That was big to them that summer, but that issue went away. As he campaigned, he was unsure of all the issues that would come before them, but he ran to serve the citizens of American Fork. He has enjoyed serving and it has been a wonderful eight years. He has enjoyed working with the council and staff and getting to know the many fine employees. It was a delight to serve. He expressed his appreciation for his wife and her encouragement and support of him. He

thanked everyone who has blessed his life over the last years, including the committee members and the community members.

4. Twenty-minute public comment period - limited to two minutes per person.
There were no public comments.

5. City Administrator's Report

David Bunker stated it was a great to honor the Chipman Family, noting he went to school with Scott Chipman not knowing his background. There are a lot of people in the city who sacrifice so much that others don't know about. He appreciated Council Member Shelton and Council Member Barnes for their service and all they have done for the community. Some of their legacy comes with the playgrounds that have been funded at three parks that are currently going in and a new bathroom being constructed at Art Dye Park. Both council members helped to make those things happen.

6. Council Reports

Council Member Taylor thanked Donna Barnes and Melissa Shelton for putting up with all the time their spouses have been away due to their council responsibilities. He expressed his appreciation for Council Members Shelton and Barnes, noting they have had many great discussions with them, and he considered them great friends. He respected Council Member Barnes and what his family went through and noted he made the Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs better. He wished them the very best.

Council Member Carroll had nothing to report, but she expressed her appreciation to Council Members Shelton and Barnes. She felt lucky to enter a council where she felt respected from day one, and they have been mentors of civility and how to work together.

Council Member Barnes expressed his appreciation to the council and stated it has been a pleasure to serve with them. A lot of work gets done in meetings, but they spend hours studying and discussing the issues. Council Member Barnes attended the Living Bethlehem event put on by the Harrington Center for the Arts was a unique and wonderful experience. It was a great reminder of what Christmas was truly about.

Council Member Shelton echoed Council Member Barnes' comments on Living Bethlehem. The transformation that took place at the amphitheater was amazing, with artwork by Christine Andersen and work performed by the parks department in preparation. Council Member Shelton noted the Beautification Committee met for the last time for the year. He commented he has enjoyed serving on all these committees.

Council Member Hunter stated when he joined the council, he wanted to make a difference. One of the first things he did was to tour the water facilities from the mountains to the lake. A hundred years ago, the council made important decisions that now bless the lives of the citizens. They have the opportunity to take a small moment out of their schedule to give back to the city. He hoped to live up to Council Member Shelton's and Council Member Barnes' examples.

7. Mayor's Report

Mayor Frost reported he attended a wonderful luncheon with the Senior Citizens at the High School, where the National Honor Society students fed 220-240 residents of the

city. He noted lunch was followed by great entertainment. This last week, an anonymous donor gave over \$7,000 in \$50 bills to him with the request that they be handed out at the Senior Center at their Friday luncheon. The seniors were so appreciative of that gift. Mayor Frost stated there were many wonderful events this time of year, with the boards and commissions and family events. He was proud of the city and how they operate during the holidays.

COMMON CONSENT AGENDA

(*Common Consent* is that class of Council action that requires no further discussion or which is routine in nature. All items on the Common Consent Agenda are adopted by a single motion unless removed from the Common Consent Agenda.)

1. Approval of the November 14, 2023, city council minutes.
2. Approval of the November 28, 2023, city council minutes.
3. Approval of the December 5, 2023, special session minutes.
4. Approval of the authorization to release the Improvements Durability Retainer of \$6,597.80 for Rockwell Ranch Block 1 Phase 2 Landscaping, located at 1032 West 430 South.
5. Approval of the authorization to release the Improvements Durability Retainer of \$36,595.15 for Millpond Apartments, located at 79 North 1020 West.
6. Approval of the authorization to release the Improvements Construction Guarantee in the amount of \$1,161,480.76 and issue a Notice of Acceptance for the Kelton Apartments (Neighborly Ventures) construction of public improvements located at 1000 West 300 South.
7. Acceptance of an easement from Dorian Topham along the property located at 185 South 100 West, American Fork, Utah 84003.
8. Approval of an amended agreement with Doug Smith Subaru for naming rights for Art Dye Dog Park for a start date of January 1, 2024.
9. Ratification of city payments (November 21, 2023, to December 5, 2023) and approval of purchase requests over \$50,000.

Council Member Taylor moved to approve the common consent agenda. Council Member Shelton seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Clark Taylor, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Rob Shelton, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and action on approval of a conditional use for outdoor storage at Deer Park subdivision.
Council Member Carroll asked for clarification for where the cross-access easement was located, to which Patrick O'Brien explained it was through the existing parking lot to the east. Mr. O'Brien noted the parking agreement would not affect the parking needs for both parcels.

Mr. O'Brien brought up the fence for the project, explaining they were proposing an 8-foot fence with 1-foot of barb wire along the top. He noted the city code allows for 8 feet

but does not specify if the addition of 1-foot barb wire was allowed, so that would need to be addressed. The city code allows for 6-foot fences in residential areas but 8-foot fences in commercial areas.

Council Member Barnes moved to approve the proposed conditional use presented in the commercial site plan, located at approximately 51 West 1100 South, American Fork City, in the PI-1 zone, subject to all conditions found in the staff report and public record from the December 6, 2023, planning commission meeting. Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Kevin Barnes, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Staci Carroll, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

2. Review and action on subdivisions, commercial projects, condominiums, and PUD's including 1) plat approval; 2) method of satisfaction of water rights requirements; 3) posting of an improvement bond or setting of a time frame for improvement installation; and 4) authorization to sign the final plat and acceptance of all dedications to the public and to have the plat recorded.

- a. Review and action on approval of a Final Plat, known as Deer Park - Border States Electric Storage Yard, located at 51 West 1100 South. The Final Plat will be for approximately 4.03 acres and will be in the PI-1 Zone.

Council Member Shelton moved to approve the proposed final plat, located at approximately 51 West 1100 South, in the Planned Industrial (PI-1) zone, with instructions to the city recorder to withhold recording the plat subject to all conditions identified in the public record associated with the December 6, 2023, planning commission meeting. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Rob Shelton, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Clark Taylor, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

3. Review and action on a resolution revising the TSSD Impact Fee and user fees.
Council Member Shelton commented he had hoped they would spread out the increases rather than stepping up 40% at once. Mr. Bunker explained the board had discussed that issue, but there were a number of projects they needed to accomplish in the next ten years where they needed the revenue to help pay for those improvements. He stated while there were projects that could be funded by impact fees, there were projects that couldn't be paid for by impact fees. It was noted TSSD did have a cash balance, and they would use some of those funds but needed to reserve some of those funds as they would be bonding for the projects.

It was noted there would be a large lift station placed on the property owned by TSSD near the boat harbor. There was also a proposal for a type of composting that would be housed indoors, however, they needed to get the approval of an adjacent city.

Council Member Barnes brought up the chart in the packet and questioned the breakdown. The council and staff discussed the charges included in that chart, to which it was pointed out the multiple family charge was less than single family residential but that those structures were charged per unit. It was also noted this charge included storm drain fees, and staff would make that delineation better.

Council Member Shelton moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-12-45R amending the general fee schedule to include revisions to the TSSD impact fee and user fee rates.

Council Member Barnes seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Rob Shelton, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Kevin Barnes, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

4. Review and action on a contract with the State of Utah Department of Natural Resources to accept grant funding to provide improvements at the American Fork boat harbor. Council Member Carroll stated the packet states \$1.8 million, but the contract says \$2 million. Derric Rykert explained they did receive another grant after the summary was created, which brought grant funds to equal \$2 million.

Council Member Carroll moved to approve the mayor sign the contract with the State of Utah Department of Natural Resources for the boat harbor grant. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Staci Carroll, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Clark Taylor, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

5. Review and action on a resolution adopting a flagpole policy along public thoroughfares in American Fork City. Council Member Shelton moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-12-46R adopting flagpole policy along public thoroughfares in the city. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Rob Shelton, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Clark Taylor, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

6. Review and action on a code text amendment of the American Fork Municipal Code amending Section 17.5.105 titled Area of Accessory Building, to amend language related to structure size, and to clarify language related to the approval procedure to be followed. Mr. O'Brien explained they have had a work session on this previously. This also went to the planning commission last month, with a detailed discussion. In the packet, there are two of the ordinances and drafts of the code amendment, one that went to the planning commission and one that came out of planning commission meeting. He noted that staff was supportive of the draft that went to the planning commission, as there were a number of criteria outlined that gave staff the ability to have guidance. He noted the current code does need to be updated, as the lack of framework is problematic.

Council Member Shelton stated he has a different perspective on the framework of the code. There are different areas in the code that bring up setbacks at the zone level, and he felt it needed to be addressed at that level. Council Member Shelton was also concerned with the provisions regarding height and style, which was previously noted in the code.

There was a discussion between council and staff on undue negative impact interpretation. Cherylyn Egner clarified that part of the purpose for adding this criterion was the proposed ordinance puts a lot of weight on the building official without guidance on the criteria to look at. Additionally, if someone comes in the building official can say what was an undue negative impact and point the applicant to the areas in the code that address that. The intent is also to give guidance to the applicant, so they have all the criteria in one spot.

There was a discussion regarding the location in the code for the different requirements and how to make the code simple to understand. What was the purpose of the proposed code if the requirements were already in the code. It was explained this was taking the approval from the planning commission and moving it to one person, with the concern with what would be required. The council could remove any parts of the ordinance they would like to remove, but Ms. Egner stated they do need to keep in the portion of the code regarding the materials required to be used and that they should not detract from the neighborhood. One example is so that the city has the ability to restrict placing Connex containers on property.

Council Member Shelton did not feel that property owners should have to go to the planning commission for approval of an accessory structure.

Council Member Hunter commented it was rare to see such a split at the planning commission. He was not ready to vote on a draft that may or may not include the language they were trying to get to, nor did he want to commit to a draft where there were questions. He would suggest they table it so they could dive into it and look at this as soon as they can.

Council Member Shelton commented that it has taken a long time to get to this point, so he did not really want to see it tabled. He has received many complaints from residents going through the process. The language in the ordinance was much different than what he originally proposed.

Council Member Carroll stated if they are trying to get to a point where they aren't requiring too much, this does not get them there. She questioned if the main goal was to change the process to take it away from planning commission approval and put it back to the building department, with appealing to the board of adjustment if needed. Council Member Shelton stated that was correct, as well as not duplicating requirements in the code; he also did not feel that engineering needed to be involved in accessory structures.

Council Member Hunter did not feel the draft in front of the council was ready and that they needed to get it right the first time. However, Council Member Shelton disagreed and felt that a couple of minor adjustments would get them to where they needed to be.

Council Member Hunter moved to table action on this item, requesting this be placed on a work session agenda in January.

Council Member Hunter stated he should have gone back to 2013 to when it was changed and to find out why it was changed. Council Member Carroll would like to have a reference to the various areas where they have accessory unit language and to add that language where they have residential areas before they move this on. The intent was to simplify the process, relying on the language in the specific zone requirements for accessory structures.

Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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| RESULT: | TABLED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Ryan Hunter, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Staci Carroll, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter |
| NO: | Shelton, Taylor |

7. Review and action on a resolution approving the multi-jurisdictional agreement for Mutual Aid, Fire, Training, Emergency Medical, and other services between various local government agencies in Utah County and American Fork City to provide Mutual Aid Assistance in instances of emergency.

Council Member Hunter moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-12-47R approving the multi-jurisdictional agreement for Mutual Aid, Fire, Training, Emergency Medical, and other services between various local government agencies in Utah County and American Fork City to provide Mutual Aid Assistance in instances of emergency and authorize the mayor to sign the agreement. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion.

Council Member Barnes asked if they had similar agreements for police services. Mr. Bunker stated they do have the same commitment for all public safety, to which Cherylyn Egner explained it was in the form of a Major Crimes Task force agreement. Lt. Fore stated he has worked for American Fork for 19 years, and they routinely respond to surrounding cities and other communities respond to American Fork.

Mayor Frost called for a vote on the motion. Voting was as follows:

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Ryan Hunter, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Clark Taylor, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

8. Review and action on an agreement with Cedar Hills approving an amendment to the public safety service agreement.

This item was pulled from the agenda.

9. Review and action on an ordinance setting the dates, time, and place of the 2024 City Council meetings.

Council Member Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-12-48 setting the date, time, and place of city council meetings for 2024. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Clark Taylor, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Ryan Hunter, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

10. Consideration and action to enter into a closed session to discuss items described in Utah State Code 52-4-204 and 52-4-205.

Council Member Taylor moved to enter into a closed session at 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing real estate. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Clark Taylor, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Ryan Hunter, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

Mayor Frost noted they would meet in the downstairs work room to discuss the sale and/or lease of real estate, after which time they will adjourn from that location.

The City Council entered into a closed session to discuss real estate at 9:11 p.m. Those present included Mayor Frost, Council Member Barnes, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Hunter, Council Member Shelton, and Council Member Taylor. Also present were City Administrator David Bunker, City Attorney Cherylyn Egner, and City Recorder Terilyn Lurker. The sale and/or lease of property was discussed, and audio recorded as required by law.

Councilman Hunter moved to return to the regular session at 10:27 p.m. Councilman Shelton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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| RESULT: | ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Ryan Hunter, Council Member |
| SECONDER: | Rob Shelton, Council Member |
| YES: | Barnes, Carroll, Hunter, Shelton, Taylor |

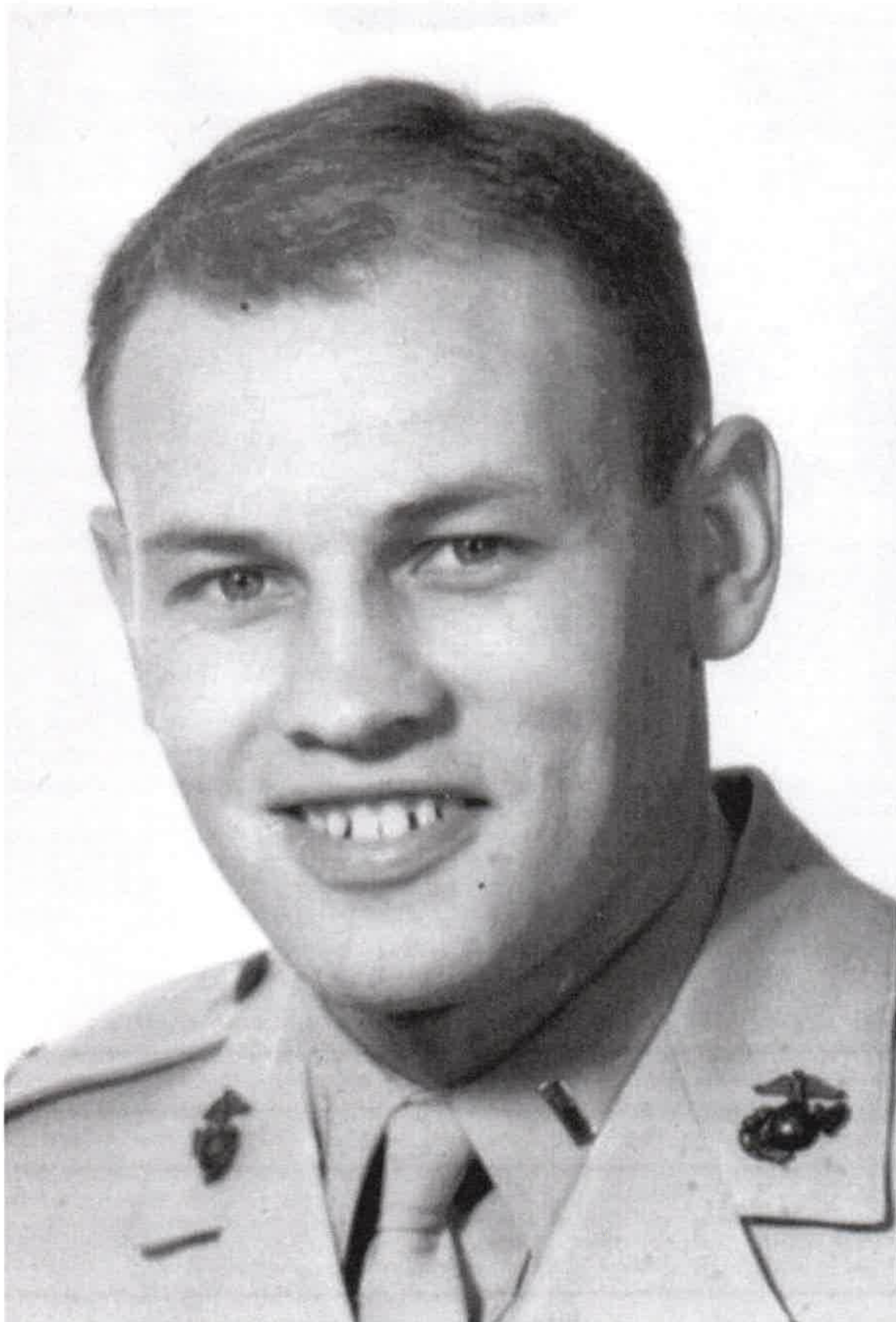
11. Adjournment.

Council Member Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.



Terilyn Lurker, City Recorder



Jim Chipman, 1943-1972

Remains of Utah Marine identified 50 years after he went missing in Vietnam

By Gabrielle Shiozawa, KSL.com | Posted - Aug. 19, 2023 at 10:03 a.m.



U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman fought in the Vietnam War in 1972. He went missing 50 years ago, but the American Fork man has finally been accounted for. (Scot Chipman)

AMERICAN FORK — "It hasn't sunk in completely, but it's amazing."

That's what Scot Chipman said about finding out his father, U.S. Marine Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman, known as Jim Chipman to friends and family, had been accounted for — more than 50 years after he went missing in the Vietnam War.

Ralph Chipman's wife, Susan Richards, said emotions have been mixed since her family learned her husband's dog tag and some of his teeth had been found among the dirt at the crash site.

"We're certainly glad that we'll eventually have something to bury. ... Having just a tiny part of him, it really means a lot to us," Richards said. "But you go through all these emotions again, and then the result is the same — he's not here."



The Chipman family celebrates Christmas in 1971, from left: Scot, Jim, Matthew and Susan. U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Jim Chipman, of American Fork, has finally been accounted for after going missing in the Vietnam War 50 years ago. (Photo: Scot Chipman)

Scot Chipman said it "eased their minds" for the family to know their dad died in the crash and was never a prisoner of war.

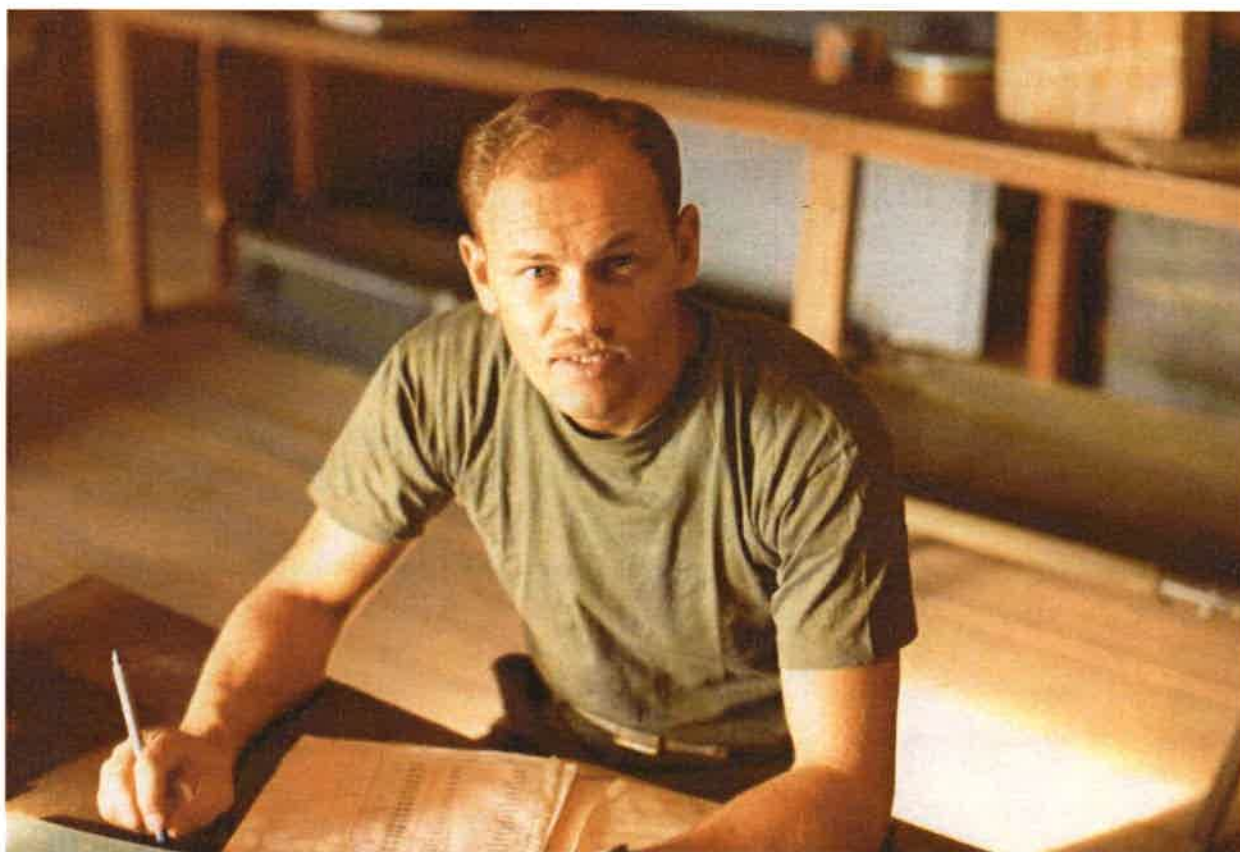
"It hasn't sunk in completely, but it's amazing," Scot Chipman said. In an Aug. 7 Facebook post, he added, "After 50 years the day our family has been waiting for has finally come!"

In late 1972, Capt. Chipman had been assigned to Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Attack Group 12, 1st Marine Air Wing, and was stationed at MCAS Royal Thai Air Force Base in Nam Phong, Vietnam, known as the Rose Garden.

Around 8 p.m. on Dec. 27, 1972, Jim Chipman and his co-pilot, Capt. Ronald Wayne Forrester, were flying a Grumman A-6A Intruder during a combat mission over northern Vietnam when the plane stopped radio communications and never returned to base.

Search and rescue teams couldn't find the pilots or the plane. Scot Chipman was just 4 years old and his brother Matthew was around 18 months old.

Years later, in July 1974, Jim Chipman was reported as killed in action — a casualty of war.



U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman fought in the Vietnam War in 1972. Chipman, of American Fork, has finally been accounted for after his plane crashed in Vietnam 50 years ago. (Photo: Scot Chipman)

Since that time, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has been working to account for Jim Chipman and other soldiers who were prisoners of war or went missing in action. Every year, the organization and its partners work with governments in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to collect evidence and conduct multiple excavations in those countries. After analyzing flight data four years ago, the agency and its partnering organizations were able to find the right spot in the Quang Binh Province where the A-6A Intruder piloted by Jim Chipman went down, Scot Chipman said.

Investigators conducted two excavations over the past few months and found Jim Chipman's dog tag, some of his teeth and a fragment of Forrester's credit card with his name on it, according to Forrester's daughter, Karoni Forrester. They also found bone fragments that are still undergoing DNA analysis.

Further excavation at the site is set to begin next June.

"We are hoping that when they analyze the DNA, that the military has in the lab now, that there's part of (Forrester), because we have a little teeny part of Jim now, and we're hoping that the Forresters are able to have a little tiny part of their dad, too," Richards said.

Ralph Chipman is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Wall of Faces. The family hopes to plan a funeral for the captain after his belongings and remains are returned home.

As of Wednesday, there are still 1,578 Americans who are missing or unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, according to the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. So far, the remains of more than 1,000 soldiers killed in Vietnam have been identified and returned to their families since 1973.

Pilot Accounted for from Vietnam (Chipman, R.)

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

PRESS RELEASE | Aug. 9, 2023

Pilot Accounted for from Vietnam (Chipman, R.)

WASHINGTON –

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Ralph J. Chipman, killed during Vietnam was accounted for Aug. 2, 2023.

In the winter of 1972, Chipman was assigned to Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Attack Group 12, 1st Marine Air Wing. On Dec. 27, Chipman was piloting an A-6A Intruder, along with his co-pilot, during a nighttime combat mission over the northern part of the Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam. After entering the target area, Chipman's aircraft ceased radio communications and never returned to base. Search and rescue teams could not locate any trace of the aircraft or the crew in the Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province. In July, 1974, he Marine Corps reported Capt. Chipman as Killed in Action.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil or find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency>.

Chipman's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000000BTZDEA4>.

08/15/2023

On Monday, August 7, 2023, DPAA notified the family of Ralph "Jim" Chipman, USMC, that they had positively ID'ed his remains 50 years after he was shot down over North Vietnam. Capt Chipman and his Bombardier Navigator, Capt Ron Forrester were conducting a night solo mission as part of Operation Linebacker II on December 27, 1972. Stationed at the MCAS Royal Thai Air Force Base, known as the Rose Garden, Chipman and Forrester departed just past 8 p.m. in their A-6A Intruder and never returned to base. Both were listed Missing in Action.

This year, DPAA has conducted two JFAs excavating the crash site. Their efforts thus far resulted in finding Chipman's dog tag, a fragment of credit card bearing Forrester's name, two teeth and a handful of small bone fragments. DPAA was able to make a positive ID on the teeth while the bone fragments are undergoing DNA analysis at AFDIL. The site remains open and further excavation is planned to begin in June 2024.

Capt Chipman's wife Susan and sons Scot and Matt are grateful to have an answer after 50 years. The family is working with DPAA and the USMC to make funeral arrangements for Jim's homecoming to be held near his home town of American Fork, UT later this year. As we celebrate every answer, we continue hope and pray for future answers to quickly follow for all who wait.

Never give up hope!

Karoni Forrester
MIA Daughter of Capt Ron Forrester
karoni@mac.com



01/2020

<https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000000BTZDEA4>

CAPT RALPH JIM CHIPMAN

Conflict VIETNAM WAR

Service UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Status ~~Un~~ Accounted For

On December 27, 1972, an A-6A Intruder (bureau number 155666, call sign "Tiny 05") took off from Royal Thai Air Base Nam Phong, Khon Kaen Province, Thailand, carrying two crew members on a night combat mission over North Vietnam. The Intruder was last heard from when an airborne controller received a radio transmission indicating "Tiny 05" was beginning its entry into the target area. No subsequent radio contact was made. An aerial search was conducted over the area where the Intruder was last heard from, but the effort was unsuccessful in locating the aircraft, a crash site, or the two crew members.

Captain Ralph Jim Chipman entered the U.S. Marine Corps from Utah and was a member of the Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Air Group 15, 1st Marine Air Wing. He was the pilot of this Intruder when it was lost, and he went missing with the aircraft. His remains were not recovered. Today, Captain Chipman is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Based on all information available, DPAA assessed the individual's case to be in the analytical category of Active Pursuit.

If you are a family member of this serviceman, DPAA can provide you with additional information and analysis of your case. Please contact your casualty office representative.

Service member profile discrepancy? Please help us ensure the accuracy of each profile by [submitting documentation](#) about a service member profile.



Capt RALPH JIM CHIPMAN

Unit VMA 533 (AW) MAG 15

Historical Country of Loss

North Vietnam

Current Country of Loss

VIETNAM

Home of Record UT

pownetwork.org/bios/c/c175.htm

Capt Ralph Jim "Steeley" Chipman

Birth: 15 Aug 1943 Orem, Utah County, Utah, USA

Death: 27 Dec 1972 (aged 29) Vietnam

Burial: American Fork Cemetery, American Fork, Utah County, Utah, USA

Memorial #: 61996435

Bio: In Memory of Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman.

*** The AMERICAN FORK CEMETERY is located at: 100 East and 650 North in American Fork, Utah, Utah. The Following is a Memorial "Dedicated to those Veterans of American Fork memorialized around the world" Capt. Ralph Jim CHIPMAN, fighter pilot USMC missing in action Vietnam 1972.

*** the family put a plaque in front of the Provo City Library and planted a tree in Chipman's honor in Robinson Park in American Fork, Utah.

*** ** Honolulu Memorial - His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial.

You may be gone, no longer living on this earth; but you will live on - in the memories of your family and friends. There will always be a part of you living in those who knew you. You will live on because we remember you!

RALPH JIM CHIPMAN - Marine Corps - CAPT - O3

Age: 30

Race: Caucasian

Date of Birth Aug 15, 1943

From: OREM, UT

Religion: LATTER DAY SAINTS, MORMON

Marital Status: Married - Susan Richards Chipman. Has remarried. They had two (2) sons. Parents: Father, Curtis Thorton Chipman, Born Jan. 13, 1918 and Died Oct. 23, 2008 and Mother, Fay LaRue Fullmer Chipman, Born July 23, 1921 and Died Oct. 5, 2006. Brother, Max Curtis Chipman, Born July 15, 1940 and Died March 24, 2013. Paternal Grandparents, Elmer Parker & Ferne Thornton Chipman. Maternal Grandparents, Ralph & Emma Katrina Nelson Fullmer.

***** Eddieb, I just wanted to thank you for adding the memorial for Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman. I was honored to see the information on him and am grateful for his and his family's sacrifice.

Thank you so much for sharing,

~from a Jim's distant cousin

***** Today is December 27th 2007. It happened so long ago on this same day. I try to remember him each time on the 27th if for a just a short moment. I was the pilot of the flight behind him that night. I returned, he didn't. I am so sorry.

Harry Trauffer

Capt USMC

Powder Springs, Ga 30127

His tour began on Dec 27, 1972

Casualty was on December 27, 1972

In , NORTH VIETNAM

Hostile, died while missing, FIXED WING - PILOT

AIR LOSS, CRASH ON LAND

Body was not recovered

Panel 01W - Line 106

Other Personnel in Incident: Ronald W. Forrester (missing)

Captain Ralph J. Chipman was the pilot of an Intruder assigned a mission over North Vietnam on December 27, 1972. His co-pilot on the flight was First Lieutenant Ronald W. Forrester.

The aircraft did not return from the mission, and last contact was made with the crew over the target area.

A subsequent article in Quan Doi Nhan Dan, a daily Vietnamese newspaper described an aircraft downed by the Vietnamese.

Apparently the pilot was reported to be dead, and possibly the co-pilot as well. Although this article was thought to possibly relate to Chipman and Forrester, it was not definite enough for proof of death.

Both men were classified Missing in Action.

Captain Chipman and Captain Forrester have not been repatriated.

Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman, shot down Dec. 26, 1972, during a bombing run on a Vietnamese supply train.

Jim Chipman and Susan Richards grew up in the same Orem neighborhood. Jim was four years older and didn't pay much attention to her, but she paid attention to him.

"He was the one that I looked at and wanted to marry for a long time," she said. "I always had a crush on him." He returned from an LDS mission about the time she graduated from high school. They'd been married almost three years when he joined the Marines so he wouldn't be drafted. He went to officers candidate school and flight school, then started flying A-6 aircrafts. He was flying one during a night bombing run of a supply train in Vietnam. An air traffic controller cleared his plane into the target area as Chipman honed in on the enemy's supplies.

That was the last contact Capt. Chipman had with the United States. His plane was shot down and disappeared into the jungles of Vietnam. No trace of the plane, the navigator or the pilot have ever been found.

Richards, who lived in Orem with the couple's two sons, opened the door a few days after Christmas to the most unwelcome surprise in the world. "I opened the door and there was a Marine and my bishop," she said. "Then it just hit me what I was looking at." She seized on the fact that they hadn't found his body and continued to hope that he was a prisoner of war, but as the months passed, she accepted that her husband was not coming home. Years later, the military found an article in a Vietnamese newspaper discussing shooting down planes in that area, and Chipman's plane was the only one shot down during that time, which confirmed that. "After months, not knowing was worse than knowing the worst, which I never thought would be the case," she said.

She has since remarried but remembers her first husband with pride; in the years after his disappearance, the family put a plaque in front of the Provo City Library and planted a tree in Chipman's honor in Robinson Park in American Fork. She never would have chosen the ending, but she wasn't sorry Chipman joined the military.

The biggest struggle through the years was the grief. The difficulty she ran into, besides losing her husband, never recovering his body and having two young sons, was that she couldn't talk to many people about Jim, not when he'd died fighting in a war most of the country didn't want. "Part of the healing process for people that lose someone, I believe, is you just want to talk about him," Richards said. "Nobody wanted to talk about Vietnam after it ended."

Today, she's glad to see people welcoming soldiers back, recognizing their sacrifice and thanking them for their service. "All Jim did was do what the president of the United States told him to do; it wasn't his decision," she said. "People that came home alive were treated like criminals, like they did something wrong. I'm glad we've learned better."

She and a friend are gathering stories for a book on how soldiers going to war affected the wives and children they left behind. Anyone interested in submitting their experiences can contact her at susanrichards47@yahoo.com.

Family Members

Parents

Curtis Thornton Chipman

1918-2008

Fay LaRue Fullmer Chipman

1921-2006

Siblings

Max Curtis Chipman

1940-2013

Created by: Eddieb (46600350)

Added: 22 Nov 2010

URL: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/61996435/ralph-jim-chipman>

Citation: Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/61996435/ralph-jim-chipman>: accessed 22 August 2023), memorial page for Capt Ralph Jim "Steeley" Chipman (15 Aug 1943–27 Dec 1972), Find a Grave Memorial ID 61996435, citing American Fork Cemetery, American Fork, Utah County, Utah, USA; Maintained by Eddieb (contributor 46600350).

From Orem, UT.

CHIPMAN, RALPH JIM

Name: Ralph Jim Chipman

Rank/Branch: O3/US Marine Corps

Unit: VMA 533, MAG 15, 1st Marine Air Wing

Date of Birth: 15 August 1943

Home City of Record: Orem UT

Date of Loss: 27 December 1972

Country of Loss: North Vietnam

Loss Coordinates: 171500N 1064500E (XD985800)

Status (in 1973): Missing in Action

Category: 2

Acft/Vehicle/Ground: A6A

Refno: 1973

Other Personnel in Incident: Ronald W. Forrester (missing)

Source: Compiled by Homecoming II Project 15 October 1990 from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Updated by the P.O.W. NETWORK 1998.

REMARKS: DEAD/QUAN DOI NHAN DAN

SYNOPSIS: The Grumman A6 Intruder is an all weather, low-altitude, carrier-based attack plane. The A6A primarily flew close air support, all-weather and night attacks on enemy troop concentrations, and night interdiction missions. Its advanced navigation and attack system, known as DIANE (Digital Integrated Attack navigation Equipment) allowed small precision targets, such as bridges, barracks and fuel depots to be located and attacked in all weather conditions, day or night. The planes were credited with some of the most difficult single-plane strikes in the war, including the destruction of the Hai Duong bridge between Hanoi and Haiphong by a single A6. Their missions were tough, but their crews among the most talented and most courageous to serve the United States.

Capt. Ralph J. Chipman was the pilot of an Intruder assigned a mission over North Vietnam on December 27, 1972. His co-pilot on the flight was 1Lt. Ronald W. Forrester. The aircraft did not return from the mission, and last contact was made with the crew over the target area.

A subsequent article in Quan Doi Nhan Dan, a daily Vietnamese newspaper described an aircraft downed by the Vietnamese. Apparently the pilot was reported to be dead, and possibly the co-pilot as well. Although this article was thought to possibly relate to Chipman and Forrester, it was

not definite enough for proof of death. Both men were classified Missing in Action. It is believed that the Vietnamese could account for them.

Forrester and Chipman are among nearly 2500 Americans who remained missing from the Vietnam war. Many experts, having seen the "several million" documents relating to Americans prisoner, missing or unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, believe that hundreds of these men are still alive in captivity today.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/153542697/ralph-jim-chipman#source>

Jim Chipman Honored in Tree Dedication

July 24, 1973 will have special meaning for Mrs. Susan Chipman of American Fork. On that day a Freedom Tree is to be dedicated in the name of her husband Marine Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman. Jim has been missing in action since Dec. 27, 1971. The program is under the joint sponsorship of the City of Provo and the organization V.I.V.A.

The program will open with a joint Color Guard, assisted by Royal Neilson on the bugle and a gun salute by V.F.W. dist. No. 4. Cleo Davis will offer the opening prayer. Speakers will include Commissioners Russell Grange and Ray Murdock. Also speaking will be Marine Major Ken Updegrove and Brad Holm our state oratory winner. Patriotic selections will be offered by the Provo Municipal Band. Mayor Verl G. Dixon will accept the dedication from Mrs. Chipman.

Attending this function will be representatives of the military, various clubs, businesses, civic dignitaries and the family and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Chipman.

The dedication will take place at the Provo City Center, 3 West and Center Street at 11:00 a.m. The public is cordially invited.

V.I.V.A. volunteers Barry and Linda Horowitz wish to thank everyone who contributed time and services to make this dedication a success. They have advised us that they will be working to dedicate more Freedom Trees in the future. The trees not only beautify our state, they serve as a living memorial to the men who gave so much.

American Fork Citizen

July 19, 1973

Provo Rites Honor Chipman, Others for Vietnam Sacrifices

In an emotion filled ceremony Tuesday, Mrs. R. Jim Chipman of American Fork, representing a group called V.I.V.A., presented a Freedom Tree to Provo City in honor of her husband who died as missing in Vietnam.

The ceremony took place at the northwest corner of the Provo City Center near the spot where the evergreen tree had been planted.

While it was Mrs. Susan Chipman who made the presentation of the tree and its identifying plaque, the brief meeting was conducted by Mrs. Linda Horowitz of Provo.

Mrs. Horowitz acted for her husband, who was chairman of the event. He was unable to attend the rites.

Making brief and succinct statements concerning freedom and sacrifice from their personal points of view, were Provo City Commissioner Russell Grange, Mayor Maj. Kenneth Updgrrove, and Brad Hixon, Utah State University student. Introductions were made by Commissioner Ray Matthews.

Commissioner Grange said that the tree was a living memorial to all those who had made sacrifices in Southeast Asia, particularly those 130 Americans who are still not accounted for in that recent conflict.

Maj. Updgrrove spoke about the hope which the pioneers had which was not like the hope felt by the wives, parents and families of the men still missing in Southeast Asia.

"Hope is, perhaps the deepest emotion," he said. "I can imagine how it grew in your heart."

Brad Hixon paraphrased a scripture from Ecclesiastes where it was noted there were times for different emotions.

"After 20 years of involvement in Southeast Asia, it is truly a time for peace," he said.

Mrs. Horowitz read a letter from John W. Warner, secretary of the Navy. He indicated that the dedication of the tree as a living memorial was a fitting tribute to such men as Jim Chipman.

"We will always stand in awe of their efforts," she later stated.

Mrs. Chipman walked to the stand, ducking the corner of her eye with the handwritten she held tightly in her hand. Her spoken remarks were expressions of gratitude for those who were involved with the tree and its dedication.

Then she briefly narrated the life of her husband saying that he had always felt a responsibility in his country and was proud to be a Marine.

"I am proud of my being a Marine too," she said. "And I know that's almost a popular thing these days."

She praised her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Chipman of American Fork. "He was the kind of man he was because of the way they raised him," she said.

Then prior to presenting the tree to the city, she said, "I hope that as you pour this plaque and this tree you will think of the sacrifice made by all these men in the cause of freedom."

Provo City Mayor Veril G. Olson accepted the tree on behalf of the city.

Capt. Chipman was born Aug. 18, 1940 in Salt Lake City. Shortly after his birth the family moved to American Fork where Jim grew up. He graduated from American Fork High School and attended BYU before spending two years in a missionary for the LDS Church

in the Eastern Atlantic States Mission.

He returned to BYU for another year where he met and married Susan. Following his graduation, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and after a period of delay was sworn in and assigned to Officers Candidate School. He then was given pilot training and on Aug. 8, 1972 was assigned to a base in Thailand.

On Oct. 27, 1972, his plane was listed as missing.

Mrs. Horowitz indicated after the ceremony that V.I.V.A. was an organization of volunteers dedicated to the idea of freedom.

"We believe that things can be done in a special way if

enough people get involved," she said.

The group is involved with distributing brochures with the names of POWs and MIA's. Now the group is involved with planting trees as living memorials to those still missing in action.

It is desired to dedicate such trees to the honor of one man.

The Provo Municipal Band under the direction of Dr. Ralph Layton, provided music for the ceremony. A joint color guard with members of the four branches of service presented the colors. A gun salute was fired by V.P.N. district No. 4 with Royal Marines playing taps on the bugle.

American Fork Citizen

August 2, 1973

American Fork Citizen

August 23, 1973

THE AMERICAN FORK CITIZEN, THURS., AUGUST 23, 1973

Mayor Proclaims Freedom Day

September 28 was recently designated as "Freedom Day" in American Fork. Mayor Malcolm Beck made the proclamation in a recent City Council Meeting in City Hall.

Activities will include the planting of a "freedom tree" in Robinson Park, a special program and an essay contest among students in the area. Linda Horowitz, representative for VIVA (Voices in Vital America) will be working closely with the city on the preparations.

VIVA is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating Americans about prisoners of war and missing in action people. Through their education process they hope to be able to get results. They have already had a freedom tree dedication

in Provo for Jim Chipman of American Fork who is still missing in action in Viet Nam.

The freedom tree here in American Fork will have a plaque dedicating it to James Chipman and all of the other persons missing in action or held as prisoners of war. Directors of the dedication said that the dedication will be made to all who are missing in action or who are held as prisoners of war, not just one man.

Although preparations are not complete for the dedication of the freedom tree or the freedom day celebration, it is expected that the High School Band will play on the program, and that a crowd will be gathered of considerable size for the noon-time dedication.

Where Is Jim?

Ralph Jim Chipman, most people call him Jim. That's an ordinary name. Jim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Chipman. He is the husband of Susan and the father of Scott 4½, and Matthew 2. Jim and Susan have a lovely home in American Fork. Jim is almost like any other man in every way. He grew up in American Fork, he went on missions for the L.D.S. Church and he graduated from BYU with a B.S. in business administration. Jim went on active duty in the Marines in Nov. of 1966. You might call Jim and Susan a very ordinary couple. You might, except that Susan mows the lawn and Susan makes sure the cut lawns running and Susan can't let the children wait up for daddy on special days. Susan doesn't have many "Special" days. Not since Jim was reported missing in action on Dec. 27, 1972. M.I.A., now Susan is alone. Alone to run the house, mow the lawn, have the car fixed and raise the children. Where is Ralph Jim Chipman? Is he missing in action? Is that enough for his parents, for Susan or for his two small sons? Is he alive? Then let's work to bring him home. Is he dead? Then let's give his family the peace of knowing that his body is buried in the soil of the land he gave his life for.

On September 28, 1973 at 12:00 a.m. in Robinson Park we are going to prove that Susan Chipman is not alone. We are going to prove that we care. A tree will be planted and a bronze plaque dedicated in the name of freedom, in the name of all our missing in action men. A tree and a plaque in the name of Ralph Jim Chipman. Please attend this Freedom Tree dedication. Everyone is invited. Susan will be there, let's show her that we all care. For more information contact V.I.V.A. in Provo, 277-0332, 1500 Lancelot Lane.

Freedom Tree Dedication At Robinson Park Friday

A Freedom Tree Dedication will be held at Robinson Park at 12 noon, Friday, September 28, to honor Marine Captain R. Jim Chipman who was reported missing in action last December 27. The family of Captain Chipman resides in American Fork.

A small May tree was planted in the park Monday as a living memorial to Captain Chipman and all those missing in action. An invitation is extended to the citizens of American Fork to attend this dedication by volunteers from "Prison Cares". They will serve as Members of Ceremony and will explain what a Freedom Tree stands for. This is the registration that, in conjunction with American Fork City, has made the plans for the program. They are donating a bronze plaque that will be mounted on a monument near the tree.

The American Fork Junior High Band and Color Guard will participate in the program. The American Fork Junior High School students have been writing essays on "What Freedom Means to Me," and David Hilgenberg had his essay chosen from those written, and has been invited to read it at the dedication program. Students from the Greenwood Elementary School will be present in the ceremony.

Susan Chipman, the wife of Captain Chipman, will present the tree, and Mayor Malcolm Beck will accept it on behalf of

American Fork City. Councilmen Ervin Brady and William Pierce will be taking part, as well.

The two small sons of Captain and Mrs. Chipman will be in attendance, along with Captain Chipman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Chipman, and his brother, Kenneth Chipman.

Linda Herrington of Provo Canyon, asked the people of American Fork to make a special effort to be at the park Friday. "Let's prove that Susan Chipman is not alone," she said. "There are a lot of people who really care - let's all be there! Let's make this a day that will be very special to the Chipmans. Let's make it a day to honor all the men who have served the American public and upheld our ideal," she urged.

American Fork
Citizen
September 27,
1973



FREEDOM TREE — LaDell Terry, American Fork City Councilman, puts final shovels of dirt around the beautiful blue spruce freedom tree planted at the Robinson Park last Monday morning. The tree will be dedicated in ceremony on Friday (tomorrow) Sept. 28, at 12 o'clock noon.

American Fork Citizen
September 20, 1973

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1973



SPEAKERS participate in ceremonies of the dedication of the Freedom Tree in honor of Capt. R. Jim Chipman and others missing in action. The ceremonies were held at Robinson Park last Friday, Sept. 28.

Missing In Action

Community Pays Homage To Capt. Jim Chipman

Freedom is our most precious gift. It doesn't come cheaply, nor can it be taken for granted. It is worth fighting for and must be cherished to be preserved.

The living memorial was dedicated in honor of Marine Capt.

R. Jim Chipman, missing in action since December, 1972, and all prisoners of war and those missing in action. An engraved bronze plaque set in concrete is near the tree.

"Service men and women are our true heroes when they are serving with honor," Mr. Pierce said. "Patience isn't just seeing the marching band parade down the street, flag waving in fireworks on a special day."

before it is the sum of the faith in the principles of government, hope in the future of the country and charity towards all and mercy towards none - it is the lifeblood of America."

Mrs. Susan Chipman, wife of the captain, presented a brief sketch of her husband's life, saying he was proud to be a Marine and that he felt responsibility not only to his family but to God and in doing what he felt was right.

She said the tree is a fitting memorial to freedom because "the tree struggles to grow and so does freedom, this tree is alive and so is freedom."

Mayor Malcolm Beck accepted the tree on behalf of the citizens of American Fork. Others on the four-day program included Tommy Harvey and Daniel Hilgerson, American Fork Junior High School students; Barry and Linda Harmsen, volunteers for Voice In Viet Nam; sponsors of the program along with American Fork and Councilman Evan Brady.

Kenneth Chipman, brother of Capt. Chipman, gave the opening prayer. Musical numbers were provided by the American Fork High School Band and the colors were presented by three members of the high school color guard.

Special guests at the program included: Mr. and Mrs. Carla Chipman, parents of Capt. Chipman, and Chipman's sons, Scott and Matthew.



FREEDOM TREE - Mrs. R. Jim (Susan) Chipman, center, and small sons, Matthew, left, and Scott, right, pose for 'Freedom Tree' and plaque dedicated to Capt. Chipman, at ceremonies held at Robinson Park last Friday night, Sept. 28.

American Fork Citizen

December 27, 1973

THE AMERICAN FORK CITIZEN, THURSDAY, DEC. 27, 1973



LEFT - Matthew and Scott Chipman, who grew up on the tree at Robinson Park. They and their mother, Susan Chipman, decorated the Freedom Tree for the holiday season with gay colored garlands, shiny baubles and a star shining so bright. The tree was planted last September on behalf of Captain R. Jim Chipman, missing in action since Dec. 1972.

Freedom Tree Decorated

Its only a little tree - actually only about four feet tall - but decorated with sparkling steel and baubles and a bright star, it stands "tall" for all to see as they pass by.

The tree is the "Freedom Tree" located at Main Street in Robinson Park and planted last fall in the memory of Marine Captain R. Jim Chipman who has been missing in action in Viet Nam since last Christmas season.

It also serves as a reminder of others who are missing in action and prisoners of war who are not yet accounted for.

But now, as it stands proudly behind its glass at the park, it seems to send out hope that by the next holiday season, Capt. Chipman and others like him will be home with their loved ones.

The tree, incidentally, was decorated by Mrs. Susan Chipman, Capt. Chipman's wife, and their two sons, Scott and Matthew. They were caught by the camera recently as they were repairing the decorations following the last heavy windstorm in the area.



FREEDOM TREE placed in honor of Marine Capt. R. Jim Chipman is fully decorated for the holiday season. The tree was decorated by Capt. Chipman's wife, Susan, and their two sons, Scott and Matthew. In the foreground of the picture is the plaque placed before the Freedom Tree.

American Fork Citizen

October 4, 1973

Status of Jim Chipman Changed

The status of Capt. Ralph Jim Chipman, missing in action since December 27, 1972 has been changed to deceased according to word received here by his wife, Susan.

Mrs. Chipman said she received a telegram on July 1 telling her of the change.

Capt. Chipman was serving with the U.S. Marine Corp and was stationed in Thailand when he was reported missing. He was on a flight over North Vietnam. He had served in the Marine Corp. almost five years at the time.

His wife and two sons, Matthew and Scot, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Chipman, all reside in American Fork.

By the time a baby bat is three weeks old, it is usually out every night hunting its own food.



CAPT. RALPH JIM CHIPMAN

Many people are ignorant and apathetic where their hearts are concerned. Don't let ignorance be your excuse - you could be dead wrong. Have your doctor check your blood pressure regularly, and ask your Heart Association how you can avoid being a candidate for heart attack and stroke.

American Fork Citizen

December 19, 1974

American Fork Citizen

July 11, 1974



TREE - Scott Chipman and his brother, Matthew, put finishing touches on tree decorations in memory of their father, Jim, missing in action over Vietnam since 1972, and later declared dead by the War Department.

Little Tree Decorated

Bright lights, gay ornaments and sparkling tinsel can all be found on the little "Freedom Tree" in Robinson Park on Main Street.

The tree proclaims its meaning of freedom to all who pass by and see it standing "bligh" amidst the hurry and scurry of the Christmas season.

The tree was planted in the fall of 1973 in the memory of R. Jim Chipman, marine captain who was listed as missing

in-action in Viet Nam during the Christmas season of 1972 and who was declared dead late this summer by the military.

It also serves as a reminder of others who are missing in-action and prisoners-of-war who are not yet accounted for.

The tree stands proudly behind its triangle shaped plaque in the park as a reminder of the freedom we all enjoy.

Mrs. Susan Chipman, widow of Capt. Chipman, and her small

sons, Scott and Matthew, put the finishing touches on the tree on Monday with city officials providing power to light the

DALL
For Him

10 Gal. Comple



BARBARA CHRISTIANSEN/NORTH COUNTY

Jared McLachlan and Bo Boulter put the monument in place. They are employees of Dalton's Memorial Engraving.

AF monument revitalized

Barbara Christiansen

NORTH COUNTY STAFF

One month before the cease fire which ended the Vietnam War, Marine pilot Jim Chipman was shot down, about 100 miles north of the Demilitarized Zone. His remains have never been recovered.

About six months after the Dec. 1972 incident, there was a ceremony to place a plaque in his honor and plant a tree in Robinson Park in downtown American Fork.

That plaque has now been placed in a granite monument, which was installed in the same location with little fanfare

on Nov. 16. The new monument should extend the life of the plaque.

Chipman's widow, Susan (now Susan Richards), told about the honor.

"There was an organization formed when the Vietnam War ended," she said. "They put a plaque in the park. We didn't have a grave marker or anything. There was a ceremony and they planted a tree. Now that tree is a huge one."

Although the tree grew, the marker did not fare well and had been damaged. It had a marker placed in a cement triangle, which was deteriorating.

See **MONUMENT**, Page 2

Monument

Continued from Page 1

Someone who wished to remain anonymous saw the problem and contacted Dalton's Memorial Engraving

to make a donation toward replacing the monument. The family completed the cost and a new marker now designates the Freedom Tree.

"That was very nice of someone to do that," Richards said.

She said it helped the family and others pay tribute to Chipman and others who have served in the military.

"He served his country," she said. "His body is some place in Vietnam. This is how we remember him."

She said he had been flying about five missions a week into North Vietnam and had been trying to find "movers," or supply trains operating at night. He had been based in Thailand.

Richards said the new

marker should last longer since it is made of granite.

Richards said their sons, Scott Chipman of Draper and Matthew Chipman of Alpine, said it would be a nice remembrance and thanked the donor.

American Fork Citizen

November 23, 2006

SI

AMERICAN



Ron Broomhead
 "Good deeds ring clear through
 heaven like a bell."



Mike Brown
 "Art is the desire of a man to
 express himself."



Merry Buckwalter
 "Do you not know I am a wo-
 man? When I think, I must
 speak."



Carol Bush
 "The difficulty is not so great
 to die for a friend, as to find a
 friend worth dying for."



Claudia Bush
 "Imagination rules the world."



Steve Carson
 "The more you practice what
 you know, the more shall you
 know what to practice."



Helen Chipman
 "I had rather do and not prom-
 ise, than promise and not do."



Jim Chipman
 "Whoever perseveres will be
 crowned."



Ann Christensen
 "The secret of the universe
 turns out to be personality."



Joan Christensen
 "Let your life lightly dance on
 the edges of time like dew on
 the tip of a leaf."



Lynn Clemens
 "What is lovely never dies but
 passes into other Loveliness."



Gerald Clements
 "Things don't turn up in this
 world unless somebody turns
 them up."