

10May72 Oyster Shot Down NVN

Walter Shull

I worked the Oyster 01B mission on 1 Jun 72, as King 22 HC130P #60220 (AMC) attempting to get Roger Locher recovered after 22-days on the ground. Had to finally bed him down one more night due to AAA & Migs. Oyster 01B was recovered on 2 Jun 72 when we stopped the war to make his recovery. A hundred plus acft participated in that CSAR SAVE

★★★ Tribute to my Hero Major Bob Lodge, KIA today in SEA History: Wednesday, 10 May 1972. ★★★

Major Robert Alfred Lodge was born on 30 June 1941 in Lynbrook, New York. His mother was a 6th grade teacher at Our Lady of Peace School in Lynbrook, NY. Lodge, a Roman Catholic was a 30 year old bachelor at the time of his death.

Lodge was a graduate of the USAFA, Class of '64.

Fellow '64 classmate and future wingman Steve Ritchie said of Maj Bob Lodge & Capt Roger Locher: "...with over 400 combat missions (a crew largely regarded as the best in Southeast Asia)...".

Look around the flight room ...who is The Best? Bob & Roger were the consensus fighter aircrew in SEA.

The F-4D team of Lodge & Locher had shotdown three enemy MiGs and appeared destined to be the first MiG 'ACEs' of the Vietnam War. However, they were shotdown while engaging their fourth MiG on the first day of Linebacker I.

Capt Locher egressed successfully from their mortally wounded Phantom II and would spend 23 days on the ground in North Vietnam (near Yen Bai MiG field) before being rescued. Major Lodge was listed as MIA and subsequently declared KIA (21.4603N / 104.5900E) (GPS: N 21°27.618' / E104°35.499').

The Air Force Academy, in conjunction with the Jabara family and the Association of Graduates awarded (posthumously) the 1974 Colonel James Jabara Award for Airmanship to Major Robert A. Lodge.

Friday, 30 September 1977: The Vietnamese "discovered" the remains of Major Robert A. Lodge (Oyster 01A) and returned them to U.S. control.

Major Bob Lodge is remembered in perpetuity on panel 01W, line 019 of the Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. Stop by sometime, lay your hand on the wall and remember a true American hero ...Major Robert Alfred (Bob) Lodge -- fighter pilot.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Panel 1 West - - Row 19

From: **Brig Gen, USAFR (Ret.) Steve Ritchie**, F-4 fighter pilot (ACE):

Thank you very much for the msg about Bob Lodge and Roger Locher. As wpns officer at the Nickel, I was honored to be Bob's understudy for the job at the 432nd. You may remember that he made Maj 3 yrs early and you are so right about Bob being always better informed no matter the rank. 10 May was indeed a sad day even w/all those MiGs that went down. No celebration at Udorn that night (and our flt bagged 3 of 4). My highest honor in SEA was flying cover for Roger's rescue. After more than 5,000 speeches nationwide and overseas, I've tried some 3,500

times to do justice to the story because it tells so much about who we are as a Nation. America is probably the only country on the planet that will expend so many resources and take such great risks against such formidable odds to go get one person!! Thank God for Charlie Gabriel, John Vogt and Fred Weyand. Along w/Jack Vessey and Jerry O'Malley these were 5 of the finest leaders of all time. Other than Bob and Roger going down, the 432nd achieved an impressive record due to the inspiration of Colonels Gabriel and O'Malley.

Thanx again.

VR, SR (Steve Ritchie)

Sir Cinco ★★★★★