

GERALD THOMAS SKIDGEL

Lt. Gerald T. Skidgel, USN, was killed on 14 Feb. when a Marine helicopter, of which he was co-pilot, crashed into the guywire of a 2060-foot television tower at Galesburg, N.D. The four crewmen were also killed. The helicopter was assigned to Patuxent Naval Air Station, Md., and was flying out of Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., on a routine training flight performing cold-weather tests. Services were held in the Chapel of the Ascension at Lexington Park, with interment in St. Andrew's Church Cemetery.

Lt. Skidgel, who was born in Maine, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1960. Following flight training at Pensacola, he was designated a naval aviator in January 1962. He served with Helicopter Squadrons 10 and 6 at Ream Field, Fla. He was assigned to the Naval Air Test Pilot School, Naval Air Test Center at Patuxent at the time of the accident. He is survived by his widow, Jane, and three children, Stephen Pratt, Michael Folsom and Mary Katherine Skidgel, all of Lexington Park.

SHIPMATE, April 1968