

Beth, I am preparing to send you the first installment of some memorabilia. Here is what I am thinking:

1) A Nomex (fireproof) flight suit with my name and wings (no rank) on the breast. This is the suit I flew with all the time.

2) My G-1 leather flight jacket complete with squadron patches and some from the Presidential squadron that were added later. Name and rank sewn on the breast. This is really a cool jacket (worn by Tom Cruise in Top Gun). Only difference I was a size 44 and he is a size 13. Not to mention I am better looking.

3) A pair of flight boots. These were made by the H. Brown shoe company (bought by Berkshire Hathaway). They have the steel toes for protection from ejection seats and loss of toes on exit from the aircraft. Flying helicopters, We did not have the benefit of an ejection seat or a parachute. When you go down you go down. Sayonara and good luck. We did have the benefit of having LRPR's (long range patrol rations), guns and morphine. Everything a young man needs. This is my second pair of boots and are virtually unworn except for a few times. Issue date of Jan 1968 stamped inside. The steel toes did protect the helicopter aircrew from dropping glasses on their feet at night however, when rejoicing that you were still alive. So there was some benefit.

4) My upland green camouflage utilities. We wore these primarily during the day or going to the Officer's club at night or traveling "in country". Cammies were issued first to the ground forces and then to flight crews in 1968 to replace standard green utilities. The camouflage mainly protected the flight crew from themselves. (Just kidding). So what do you think? I ought to throw a "you know" in there somewhere since I have concluded after all these years that I am illiterate after reading my interview.

So let me know - you know?

David Taylor