

**A MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE TO
25 U.S. CITIZENS
KILLED OR DISAPPEARED
BY CUBA'S COMMUNIST REGIME
WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY
OR THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IN CUBA**

Documented cases to date
Work in progress
Update of May 26, 2016

**7 executions by firing squad
2 extrajudicial assassinations
1 forced disappearance
15 killed or missing in operations to
monitor/counter the Castro regime**

See case details and the report on all U.S. citizens
killed or disappeared by the Castro regime at
www.database.CubaArchive.org

In alphabetical order



Howard F. Anderson, Age 41: Executed by firing squad, April 19, 1961, Kilo 5 ½ prison, Pinar del Rio, Cuba. Business executive, President of the American Legion of Havana, and avid sports' fisherman resident of Havana, Cuba. Arrested in March 1961 and charged as a C.I.A. agent involved

in an anti-Castro conspiracy, he was sentenced to death in a sham trial. Prior to his execution, he was savagely tortured and his blood was forcibly extracted (the Cuban government was selling it to other countries). He was buried in a ditch or mass grave. Another U.S. citizen, Angus McNair, and seven Cubans were executed the same day. The United States forwarded a stiff protest to the Cuban government declaring the executions violated "the elementary standards of justice practiced by the civilized nations of the world." His widow and children sued the Cuban government for damages in U.S. federal court and in 2003 obtained an award of \$67 million.

Rudolph Anderson Jr., Age 35: Shot down during a surveillance mission, October 27, 1962. Bay of Nipe, Oriente Province, Cuba. U.S. Air Force Major, U-2 pilot assigned to the 40-28 Strategic Weather Reconnaissance Flight Program at Laughlan



Air Force Base, Texas, shot down by a missile while flying a U-2 spy plane over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He had taken the first photos of Soviet missile silos in Cuba. Then Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev wrote that Fidel Castro had ordered Soviet antiaircraft officers stationed in Cuba to shoot down the plane and they had complied without authorization from Moscow. Anderson was survived by a wife and three children.

Leo Francis Baker, Age 34. Killed in combat, April 19, 1961, Cuban airspace over Bay of Pigs, Las Villas province.

Resident of Birmingham, Alabama, flight navigator with the Alabama National Guard whose plane, piloted by Capt. Thomas Ray, was shot down during the Bay of Pigs invasion. His body was not returned to his family or to the U.S. government.



Nels L. Benton. Killed in combat, accidentally, May 13, 1961, in Retalhuleu, Guatemala. A native of Eagle Bend, Minnesota, chief of testing for the CIA's Directorate of Plans' Technical Services Division and veteran of the Office of Strategic Services(OSS) and WWII war hero. "Benny" was a highly-respected expert in sabotage,

special warfare, and counterinsurgency. On April 13, 1961, while he was training Cuban exiles for the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion in a camp in Guatemala, he was constructing a utility explosive charge when the material caught fire. Attempting to move the burning mixture away from other highly volatile materials to avoid injuring others, he suffered severe burns that led to his death 4 weeks later.

Earl Glenn Cobeil, Age 36: Extrajudicial assassination (war crime), November 5, 1970, Hoa Lo prison, North Vietnam. U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, Vietnam P.O.W, from Pontiac, Michigan. He had been taken prisoner in 1967 when his Air Force jet was shot down over North Vietnam. Transferred to Hoa Lo Prison ("The Zoo"), he was subjected to "the Cuban Program," an experimental domination technique with a particularly vicious regime of physical and psychological torture led by Cuban state security agents; it was tested on 18 U.S. POWs held at Hoa Lo during 1967 and 1968. After weeks of vicious beatings, unrelenting psychological torture, electro-shocks, and solitary confinement, Cobeil's physical and mental condition deteriorated progressively until he went into a coma and died in his cell. Survived by a wife and two children, Cobeil's remains were returned to the U.S. in March 1974. The head of the Cuban torture team was identified by POWs as Fernando Vecino Alegret, who later became Cuba's Minister of Higher Education.





Andrew DeGraux Villafaña, Age 19: Forced disappearance, September 13, 1962. U.S. citizen born in Cuba, resident of Trinidad, Las Villas province, son of a U.S. F.B.I. agent residing in Cuba, and student of auto mechanics who had organized a student strike in Las Villas. An anti-

Castro insurgent, he was wounded in combat and taken for medical care to a Trinidad hospital, where he was denied water and subjected to psychological torture. Transferred to a hospital in Cienfuegos, he was operated on successfully, but that same night the family was told he had died and had been buried at a cemetery in Cienfuegos. It was, however, rumored that he had been executed.

Robert Otis Fuller, Age 25. Executed by firing squad, October 16, 1960, San Juan Hill shooting practice field, Santiago de Cuba.

Former U.S. Marine officer, veteran of the Korean War and resident of Coral Gables, Florida executed with fellow Americans **Anthony Zarba** and **Allen Thompson**. They had landed on October 1960 in Oriente province to help the anti-Castro insurgency, but were soon captured and tried by a Revolutionary Tribunal in a summary procedure lasting only 20 minutes that sentenced ten men to death. The appeal lasted 20 minutes and the execution was carried out that same day. Fuller's blood (and probably that of the other men) was drained immediately before the execution --Cuba was selling blood in the world market. The U.S. government filed a diplomatic note of protest that was rejected by the Castro government. Cuban writer Norberto Fuentes recounts witnessing a 1987 meeting at which Fidel and Raúl Castro gloated about having had the Americans executed. On February 2003, Fuller's widow and daughter won a default judgment against the Cuban government in a Florida court.



Robert Ellis Frost: Killed in combat, February 18, 1960, España Sugar Mill, Perico, Matanzas province. Pilot killed in combat when his small plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire when bombarding a sugar mill in Matanzas province in an anti-Castro operation.

Wade Carrol Gray: Killed in combat, April 19, 1961, Cuban airspace. Flight Navigator with the Alabama National Guard resident of Birmingham, Alabama shot down during an air support mission for the 2506 Brigade during the Bay of Pigs invasion. His body was not returned to his family or to the U.S. government.



Paul Hughes, Jay Hunter
Halloween day was named "Operation Trick or Treat," and the three

Paul Joseph Hughes, Age 37, pilot, and Jay Hunter, co-pilot, Missing in action October 31, 1960. They had taken off from Ft. Pierce, Florida, with the intention of bombing, or attempting to bomb, Cuba. The bombing operation on

homemade bombs they carried were named for three U.S. citizens executed in Santiago de Cuba a few days earlier (Robert Fuller, Tony Zarba and Allen Thompson) for an aborted invasion of Cuba. Hughes, a former navy pilot, was a soldier of fortune; he and Hunter had both been previously active in revolutionary activities with the Castro Rebel Army and later the Castro Armed Forces.

Clyde Benton, Pat, Hughes, Age 37. Killed from friendly fire, September 21, 1960 in the vicinity of Flores, Guatemala.

Former U.S. Air Force officer from Louisiana and pilot working covertly out of Guatemala to support the anti-Castro armed resistance in Cuba. His airplane, a B-25 bomber, was reportedly shot down by the Guatemalan military when, returning from Cuba, he approached the Flores airport low on fuel and unable to communicate with the tower. He had initially been active in support of the Castro Rebel Army and, subsequently, the Castro Armed Forces, but was supporting anti-Castro activities after the regime became repressive. He left behind a daughter.



Eugene Koch, Age 22: Killed in combat, April 17, 1961, Bay of Pigs, Las Villas province.

Former engineering student at University of Villanueva, Havana. Paratrooper, member of the 2506 Brigade, killed in combat during the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Angus K. McNair, Age 25: Executed by firing squad, April 19, 1961, Kilo 5 ½ Prison, Pinar del Río province.

Radiotelegraph operator for an anti-Castro rebel group from Coral Gables, Florida. He landed in Pinar del Rio province on March 21st 1961 to start an anti-Castro guerrilla group and was captured and executed with U.S. citizen Howard Anderson and seven Cubans. The U.S. forwarded a stiff protest to the Cuban government declaring the executions violated "the elementary standards of justice practiced by the civilized nations of the world."



William Alexander Morgan, Age 34: Executed by firing squad, December 3, 1961, La Cabaña Fortress, Havana.

U.S. Army veteran, former paratrooper and commander in Castro's Rebel Army, resident of Havana, Cuba, executed for participating in

an anti-Castro conspiracy supplying arms to the Escambray guerrillas. He had been betrayed by a police informer and was sentenced to death in a sham trial. Just days after his death, Morgan's 23-year old Cuban wife was arrested and remained imprisoned until 1973. She fled Cuba for the U.S. in 1980 with her two daughters during the Mariel boatlift.

William Horace Patten, Age 34: Executed by firing squad, September 23, 1961, Shooting practice field, city of Camaguey.

Ticketing agent at Camaguey Airport, and general aviation pilot for agricultural aerial-spraying applications. He landed in Cuba to start a guerrilla movement, was captured, and executed on charges of conspiracy against the powers of the state. His young wife, unaware



he was to be executed, unexpectedly learned of his death on Cuban radio.



Mike Rafferty: Killed in combat, December 11, 1966, Florida Straits. Pilot resident of Florida, USA. His B-25 aircraft crashed into the ocean after bombing a refinery in Matanzas Bay in support of the Cuban anti-Castro resistance.

Thomas Willard Ray, Age 30: Extrajudicial assassination, April 19, 1961, Cuban airspace over the Bay of Pigs. Air Force Captain, pilot with the Alabama National Guard resident of Birmingham, Alabama. He was shot down near the Australia Sugar Mill in Cuba while piloting a plane on a C.I.A. covert mission



in support of the 2506 Brigade during the Bay of Pigs invasion. Having survived the crash wounded, he was executed with a shot at close range to the right temple. For 18 years, the Cuban government kept his frozen body at a morgue in Havana as a war trophy, exhibiting and routinely desecrated it. His daughter Janet led a campaign to recover his remains and, after receiving over 200 letters from her, Fidel Castro decided to release them. He was buried December 1979 in Birmingham, Alabama, with military honors. Prior to his burial, an autopsy was performed that determined the cause of death. In November 2004, Ray's daughter won a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the Cuban government in a Florida court.



Alexander I. Rorke, Jr., Age 37: Missing in action, September 24, 1963, Cuban airspace. Freelance writer resident of New York city who disappeared with two others (including the pilot, Geoffrey Sullivan) in or en route to Cuba during a CIA sponsored flight to deliver supplies to the anti-Castro resistance movement in the Escambray

mountains of Cuba. Their Beechcraft bi-motor airplane had taken off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, refueling in Cozumel, Mexico, en route to Cuba. Credible sources later reported that the plane had been shot down over Cuban territory and that at least the pilot, Sullivan, had been tortured and imprisoned for over a decade before being executed. In August 2009, his daughter won a lawsuit against the Cuban government in Maine and was awarded US\$21 million (which she has not been able to collect).



Riley W. Shamburger Jr.: Killed in combat, April 1961, Cuban airspace over Bay of Pigs. Air Force Major with the Alabama National Guard resident of Birmingham, Alabama. Shot down while piloting a plane in support of the 2506 Brigade during the Bay of Pigs invasion. His body was not returned to

his family or to the U.S. government.

Geoffrey Sullivan, Age 28: Missing in action. September 24, 1963, airspace over Cuba. Commercial pilot resident of New York City, N.Y. Disappeared with Alexander Rorke, Jr. while piloting a Beechcraft bi-motor aircraft on a flight from Fort Lauderdale, Florida,

to Panama during a anti-Castro mission. Was a veteran of several flights to Cuba in support of anti-Castro rebels.



Allen Dale Thompson, Age 36: Executed by firing squad, October 16, 1960. Santiago de Cuba. Was executed with fellow Americans **Anthony Zarba** and **Allen Thompson**. They had landed on October 1960 in Oriente province to help the anti-Castro insurgency, but were soon captured and tried by a Revolutionary Tribunal in

a summary procedure lasting only 20 minutes that sentenced ten men to death. The appeal lasted 20 minutes and the execution was carried out that same day. The U.S. filed a diplomatic note of protest that was rejected by the Castro government. Cuban writer Norberto Fuentes recounts a 1987 meeting at which Fidel and Raúl Castro gloated about executing the Americans.

Ksawery Wyrozemski, Age 51: Killed in combat, accidentally, February 12, 1967, Albertville, Congo. Resident of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, CIA officer chief of air operations part of a covert program to stop a Communist takeover of the Congo by Simba guerrillas supported by the USSR and Cuba. He died in a car accident when a Congolese Army truck hit his jeep. He left behind a wife and son.



Anthony Zarba, Age 27: Executed by firing squad, October 13, 1960, Santiago de Cuba. Resident of Somerville, Massachusetts Was executed with fellow Americans **Robert Fuller** and **Allen Thompson**. They had landed on October 1960 in Oriente province to help the anti-Castro insurgency, but were soon captured and tried by a Revolutionary Tribunal in a summary



procedure lasting only 20 minutes that sentenced ten men to death. The appeal lasted 20 minutes and the execution was carried out that same day. The U.S. filed a diplomatic note of protest that was rejected by the Castro government. Cuban writer Norberto Fuentes recounts a 1987 meeting at which Fidel and Raúl Castro gloated about executing the Americans.

We also honor

2 veterans of the U.S. armed forces killed by Cuba



Armando Alejandro Jr., Age 45: Extrajudicial assassination, February 24, 1996, international airspace over the Straits of Florida. Vietnam War veteran and Transit Planner at Miami Dade County's Department of Transportation resident of Miami, Florida. Passenger aboard an unarmed civilian plane shot down by Cuban MIG jet fighters while on a

humanitarian search and rescue mission of rafters for the non-profit organization "Brothers to the Rescue."

Francis Brown, Age 68: Extrajudicial assassination, April 27, 1978, Guantánamo hospital. Former World War II U.S. veteran who was working as a diver at the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base and lived outside the base with a Cuban wife and daughter when the Castro regime rose to power. He was alerted by a co-worker who had been designated to kill him by the Cuban regime in order to blame the U.S. government and provoke a confrontation. He resigned from his job at the base to avoid being used as pawn, but remained in Cuba trying to get his family out. He was falsely accused of kidnapping his own daughter and imprisoned. After his release, he was under constant surveillance and controlled by the secret police. On the eve of a visit by an African-American delegation from the U.S., he developed high blood pressure and went to the hospital emergency room. Under the control of State Security agents, he was given an injection that almost immediately caused him to foam at the mouth and die. His daughter believes he was killed to avoid a public relations' problem.



www.CubaArchive.org

initiative of the
Free Society Project, Inc.
Tel. 973.701-0520
info@CubaArchive.org

Cuba Archive's Truth and Memory Project documents loss of life resulting from the Cuban revolution and studies transitional issues of truth, memory and justice.

Reproduction or distribution of this material is authorized as long as its source is cited.