**AW1(NAC) Roy Everett Childress**

VS-22, 21 October 1986. Roy, from Tampa, FL, had been a QM for four years, got out, and then came back in as an AW. Just days after a port visit to Haifa, Israel, Roy and his crew were on a mission in the eastern Mediterranean, launching off the John F. Kennedy. They never returned from their mission. US and Israeli aircraft searched just south of Cyprus for three days with no success. AWCM Gary Johnson wrote on a tribute page: *I met Roy for the first time while visiting the TSC at Cecil Field and renewed our acquaintance when his squadron embarked on USS John F Kennedy (CV-67) in the spring of 1986 in preparation for our 1986 deployment to the Mediterranean. The image of his broad smile and bubbly personality remains with me to this day. He launched with his crew on a beautiful clear October day on a routine freelance surface search event and simply did not return. No trace of the aircraft or crew was ever found. Roy was the kind of person you liked immediately and felt as if you had known all your life. He was a super operator and a true shipmate. His death left a void in our lives that can never be filled. Rest in peace Shipmate!*On the same tribute page, AWCS Roger Mabry wrote:*It was just last year (1985) when I made Chief that Roy was going through the Cat II syllabus at "VSSU". Roy somehow got a hold of my charge Book and put some real sweet things in it. That was Roy. Always a team player. He loved his life, job and country. You could not like Roy. He was "Everyman". If you ever wanted a brother, friend, Best Man; Roy was the model to go buy. His sister used to come out to the Base and place flowers there at the memorial , on his birthday every year. We lost a lot when we lost him , then again maybe we lose part of ourselves, memories both good and bad..*

*In closing, the most striking thing about Roy was he was such a gentleman. (Not a stuffy puffed up; I'm better than you are) but a person who genuinely cared about who you were and what you were doing. Thank You Roy for leaving us your Legacy!!!!*

On the following page is Roy’s obituary from the Tampa Tribune 01 November 1986:

