UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
COLORADO

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COLO. -----Val Bourque, South Hadley Falls, Mass., reported to the then brand new Air Force Academy at 4:30 a.m. July 11, 1955.

Following a medical examination and the signing of a myriad of documents, Mr. Bourque at 6:10 a.m. became Basic Cadet Bourque -- the very first member of the Cadet Wing to receive the official oath,

Oct. 24, 1964, 1st. Lt. Valmore W. Bourque was the first Academy graduate to die in combat.

He was buried in the Academy cemetery this morning (Thursday).

The Air Force announced Lt. Bourque's posthumous promotion to Captain prior to burial.

Academy cadets, airmen, and other Air Force personnel took part in the moving military burial services.

Buglers from the Academy Band played taps.

Many of Captain Bourque's classmates returned to the Academy for the funeral and burial.

Captain Bourque will rest in the cemetery which also holds the body of the man who was superintendent of the Academy at the time of his entry --

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Gen. Hubert R. Harmon.

The cemetery, a plot of closely clipped grass, is girdled by tall, straight pine trees.

It is a tranquil place -- a place where a man who died serving his country well can rest in peace.

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