

## Spec Giacomo "Jocko" Liberatore

Birth: Feb. 13, 1950, USA Death: Oct. 25, 2009, USA

Specialist Five

US Army, Ammunition Specialist

131st Avn. Co., Hue Phu-Bai, RVN Dec '68-Dec '69

Burial: [Calverton National Cemetery](#)

Suffolk County New York, USA

Plot: Sec. 34 Plot 4493

Record added: Dec 26, 2010

Find A Grave Memorial# 63338442



### "Skunk Vietnam Story 1969"

Giacomo and I met about in 2008, and we liked each other instantly. My friend Steve Cordelli introduced us and was apprehensive because he said we were both like a *force of nature*, and didn't know how that would turn out... it turned out just fine... I met a wonderful person and friend that day.

Our dear friend Giacomo Liberatore: native Brooklyn born- An only son- passed away from heart ailments at the age of 59. When stationed in Vietnam Jocko (Army) Flew in OV2 plane that held weapons for the troops & functioned as a supply unit... His job was to set up the base with a storage facility to hold all weapons/supplies for our troops – When needed he would build bunkers or use a suitable hut for storage...

In the 1980's Steve and Giacomo were down in Florida for spring training, as they would do every year – Steve noticed that Giacomo had a cute skunk tattoo (not masculine) on his Left shoulder- he asked what's up with that. At the time it was too difficult for Giacomo to speak about it ... so he didn't... Steve didn't press him on it because he could see that it had some deeper meaning ... Thinking it unusual for this big strong friend, who always joked around.

It took a few years before Giacomo could share the story of the Skunk tattoo. It turned out that while stationed in Vietnam... he was at his base... and one day there was lots of frantic activity... A Marine helicopter pilot flew in to express that there was a big battle going on the island, and they had to get to the wounded. Giacomo, immediately wanted to assist.

However, this was a Marine helicopter ...he asked if he could go with them... He was given permission to board... While on the helicopter, he met a young black man in his mid twenties (a door gunner)... The fella introduced himself as **Skunk** ... When they got to this big vicious "major" battle... Prior to landing the helicopter... Skunk said: I'll stay in the door and COVER you, while you rescue those who are injured... please do this quickly...