



## Robert Fred Hesse

January 4, 1949 - November 11, 2017

Robert F. Hesse, 68, of Coulter, Iowa, passed away Saturday, November 11, 2017, in Coulter, Iowa. He was born January 4, 1949, in Hampton, Iowa, to Arthur and Myrtle (Taylor) Hesse. Robert graduated from Cal Community School and Ellsworth Community College and attended Iowa State University. He was united in marriage to Kathy Steuart on August 12, 1979, in Iowa Falls, Iowa. Robert worked as an aerial sprayer and farmer. He loved flying and farming. Robert served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. While in Vietnam, he received numerous awards, which include the Soldier's Medal, Purple Heart, Air Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars. Robert received the Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy. His helicopter was a part of a visual reconnaissance team operating west of Duc Pho when it came under anti-aircraft fire. Receiving several direct hits, the helicopter began to burn and then crashed. Robert crawled out of the downed aircraft and realized that the pilot was still trapped in the burning craft. Without regard for his personal safety, Robert moved through the intense heat and flames to aid the trapped pilot. Despite his own burns, He administered first aid to the severely injured pilot until they were evacuated. Robert's personal heroism, unselfish concern for his fellow soldier, and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. Robert is survived by his wife Kathy Hesse, sons Ryan Hesse and Eric Hesse, aunt Grace Toomsen,

sisters-in-law Cindy Steuart, Susan (Brian) Steuart Cook and Lori Steuart, brother-in-law David (Julie) Steuart, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Richard Hesse.