

Tributes to Lanier Class 1969 Veterans and active Duty Personnel

For those service members who returned from their overseas duties during the Vietnam Era, I salute each of you and wish that the country had treated you as well as we have been treated since the two Gulf War periods. God Bless You for your service. - *David Francis*

“James Radney stayed in close contact with several from our Class. James Wheless and I were pallbearers for his services. (That was 1982 so much since has been a blur or dementia). I was in James' (and Cindy Salcher's) wedding in 1973. After James and Cindy were married, we would usually see them about once a year as they would get to Austin and once in Corpus Christi when they were stationed there. I remember that James was in the best shape of his life - heck, he was young, right? But he really was. My 2nd child and their 1st had been born in the past 60 days, and we had been in contact about their births by phone. In 1982, we were 31 and I may have not had all the "etiquette for the deceased" down at that point. (For the age of 60, I have had time to get better at this.) I remember the day that James' uncle called me at my office to tell me that James was lost in the line of duty. He told me that James' helicopter blade had "sheared" on a training exercise along a beach area in Florida. The helicopter had turned upside down in the water. The other 3 crew members had gotten out alive. Both of James' legs were broken in the crash.

I've done less than a perfect job of staying in touch with James' parents who moved back to Houston about the year 1972. I was actually in his brother's wedding down in Ingleside, TX about the year-1971. I hear from James' Uncle's family every so often. His cousin was a Texas highway patrolman for awhile and still may be. His uncle was an Austin builder. They're great people just like James' family. I think I last saw Cindy maybe 10 years ago. Derek, James and Cindy's son, was exactly like James, mannerisms and all -- frankly, it was unbelievable. Wheless told me that Derek is a preacher in another State. It's been 28 years ago since James passing, wow! ... I guess we all have stories like this in our lives. Praise be to God.” - *Jeff Heard*

Some drafted, some commissioned and some enlisted but most baby-boomers were more than happy and gracious to serve a country that parents, aunts, uncles and friends as WWII and Korean war Veterans survived and died to see that Democracy is maintained as standard for a governing method to agree, disagree and compromise. To some service personnel a grim vigil with struggle and honor was waged so that all women and men have ample opportunity to voice their concerns for a better life, pedestal the grass roots needs of citizens and live the perpetual dream with their children and loved ones. We all appreciate and practice what Thomas Jefferson's ideology was comprised.

We salute and thank all Lanier High School's Service personnel and Veterans for their past, present and future service to our county. We ask that God Bless the families of Ronald Lazicki, William Rushing and James Radney. Selfless and ultimate heroic sacrifices were given by our Lanier Serviceman for us, God and Country. Please continue to remember them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. - *Clark Emmert*

I. Greg Bednar



1969 - 1975

Texas Army National Guard

MOS-52B20 Generator Specialist

We were held in reserve in case the Viet Cong got past Waco.

Bullock, Arthur John

1970 - 1973

US Army



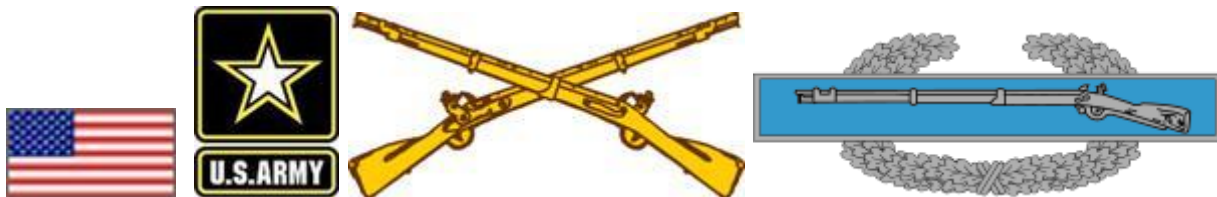
ASA (army security agency) - MOS of 32F (crypto repairman). Ft. Monmouth, NJ - 1970 to 1971.
Toured in Germany from 1971 - 1973 when President Ford down sized the Army and let most of us out after 3 years instead of 4.
NOAIU73's

Cantwell, Vernon I. - 1950 -2009
1970 -1994
US Navy, US Marines & US Army



24 years in Service to our Country including 7 years reserve duties. His military service took him all over the world to places like: Bahrain, Bolivia, Afghanistan, the Arctic Circle and Iraq as he served his country during Desert Storm, Vietnam and in 2001 Enduring Freedom as Military Medical Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician and Corpsman to Navy Seals groups. We recently lost Vernon to complications associated with coronary failure. Wife Donna, their families and we will dearly miss one who has given much to his country.

Ehrhardt, James
1970 – 1972
US Army Infantry – Sergeant, Drill Instructor



Drafted, D.I. NCO School - Ft. Benning, Ft. Polk cadre, Viet Nam- Security Forces in /near port area for incoming Supply shipments.

Emmert, Clark Steven
1970 - 1972
US Army



Military Police Corps – 95B Cadre-USAMPS, duty posts with 3rd and 6th Army. Trained XO's, CO's & investigators at Army MP School. Near the Pacific Coast Highway, there were ample opportunities for scuffs to the MP's spit-shined jump boots: Ice plants, riots, demonstrators, J. Fonda and B. Seale. Never a dull moment on 6th Army – Ft. Ord premises.

Fleming, John LeRoy



1969 – 1997

US Navy



I'm proud to say I served in the Navy, including 4 years at the Naval Academy
Last duty naval aviator F-18 Hornet. Earlier years flew the A-7, F-5 & A-4
Captain, US Navy (Ret.)

Photos: Lieutenant Fleming standing on the ladder of an A-7 Corsair on USS John F. Kennedy; the year must have been 1978. John flew the A-7 for several years and accumulated about 2,300 hours and 500 carrier landings (day and night) in that aircraft before the Navy retired it. Second picture standing on the flight deck of the USS Forrestal with one of my department heads (I'm the short guy on the left) during my Commanding Officer (CO) tour. That was 1992 and I was Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 132 "The Privateers", Flying the F/A-18A and accumulated about 1,000 hours and 150 carrier landings (day and night) during that tour. The 8-month cruise (deployment) was on the Forrestal. Photo to far right is of my family and I (my wife, my son and one of my three daughters) walking away from my aircraft after our squadron 'fly-in' upon return from the Forrestal deployment. As a Captain, his final Navy tour, John was Commander of Strike Fighter Wing U.S. Atlantic Fleet (how about that for a title?) John flew the F/A-18A/B/C/D, the F-5, and A-4 and retired in 1997 after 24 years in the Navy. No complaints from John, it was an honor and a privilege. In John's words: "I would love to do it again".

Forrester, Vance Montgomery 'Monty'

1977-2000

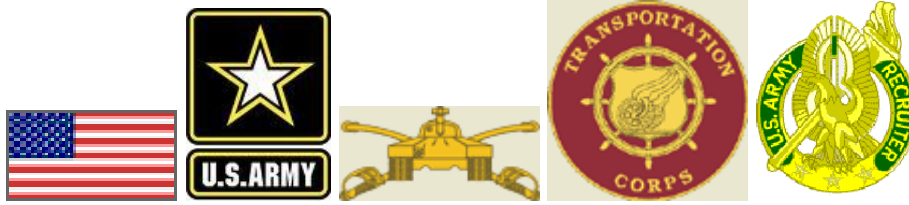
US Army



Passing the Texas bar exam, Monty was sworn in as an attorney in November 1976. Monty's career was mostly in the court room trying criminal cases or supervising younger attorneys trying cases. In the middle of his military career the Army sent him to get an advanced law degree at George Washington University in taxation. After completion, he utilized the new tax degree as the Army's Director of Taxation for three years at the Pentagon and served through the first Iraq War and in Germany. Monty wrote, "I enjoyed every job I had - I consider myself very lucky".

Monty retired in October 2000 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Currently, and just as honorably, Monty teaches in the Virginia public school system.

Francis, David Allen
1983 - 2006
North Carolina Army National Guard



Left Photo - Standing at the entrance to one of Saddam's palaces near the Saddam International Airport in Baghdad (as it was labeled then)

We didn't have to knock. The door was already open, thanks to the Air Force.

Center Photo - On our way into Iraq in April 2003 as transportation support behind the first wave (after the 'Mother of All Sandstorms'.

Even Oliver North beat us to Baghdad.

Right Photo - In my Army Dress Blues shortly after returning from overseas duty in Bosnia (2000 - 2001)

SFC David A Francis (Ret)

Military Occupational Specialties

- 19K - Armor - Tank Commander - Turkey (1991), Bosnia (2000-01)
- 88M - Transportation - Convoy Commander - Kuwait (2003), Iraq (2003-04)
- 00E - Recruiter - North Carolina (1985-86)

Tours of Duty

- Middle East - Turkey (1991) - "Operation Display Determination"
- Bosnia (2000-01) - "Stabilization Force 8"
- US Airports (2001-02) - "Operation Enduring Freedom"
- Kuwait/Iraq (2003-04, 2005-06) - "Operation Iraqi Freedom"

23+ years of service

36 awards and citations

Currently in the US Army Retired Reserve until his 60th birthday (August 7, 2011),
Then David will complete his military service.

Fuentes, Joel Jaime, Jr.
1969 – 197-
US Navy



Enlisted with Benjie Pierson on the “Buddy System”

Hanna, Jan Eric
1969 – 1975
US Marine Corps



Currently Captain, Canadian Forces Cadet Corps.
British Columbia – Canada

Henley, Russell Craig
1971-1974
US Navy



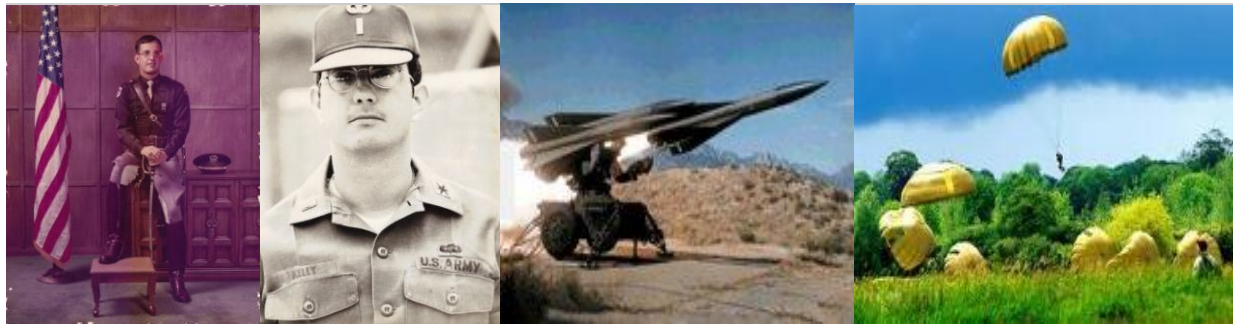
Dental Technician
USS Enterprise (CVAN 65)
Yankee Station, North Vietnam

Hubbard, Richard Dawson
1971-1972
US Army



Signal Corps – Korea

Kelly, Howard Dennis
1974-1978
US Army



Area of Service Specialty, Air Defense Artillery officer -

Dennis was commissioned in the Army from the Corps of Cadets at A&M in December of 1973. He began his active duty in the fall of 1974. As an Air Defense Artillery officer, Dennis received specialty training at Fort Bliss, Texas. During specialized training Dennis also earned his Airborne wings at Ft. Benning, Georgia. As a Second Lieutenant, Dennis spent a year as a platoon leader at a Hawk Missile Battery in Korea and was awarded an Army Commendation Medal. As a First Lieutenant, he was a battery executive officer at Fort Bliss for most of his four-year active-duty service. Dennis became Captain just before leaving active service for the Army reserves in 1978-1982. For reserve duty, Dennis joined a Civil Affairs Company in Lubbock. Upon completion of law school, Dennis resigned his commission.

Leal, Robert Lee 'Bobby'

1970 - 1974

US Navy



Navy Corpsman, trained as an operating room technician. My duty stations were San Diego for corps school, then the Naval Hospital at Beaufort South Carolina, then on to National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda MD. Completed duties at the Naval Hospital - Corpus Christi, Texas.

Lunday, Mark Curtiss 1951 -1981

1970 -1973

US Army



We lost Mark due to circumstances surrounding tragic events in 1981. We are so saddened by the soon departure of a Viking so young.

McDonald, Donald Lewis

1969 - 2010

US Army



Army Aviation

41 years service - still going.

153AL, UH-60 Maintenance Test Flight Evaluator

My position, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, (BAMO), Brigade Aviation Maintenance Officer

Currently, Austin Bergstrom Int. Airport

Last: LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq

"Maintenance is not a constraint to mission accomplishment; it is the backbone to mission accomplishment."

McDougall, Don Neal – 1950 - 2010
1971 -1973
US Army



Maynard, Rodney Ray
US Army



Special Forces

Mills, Blain Randall
1975-1995
US Navy



MMC retired.

Nielsen, Milton Christian
1975 - 1997

US Air Force



Milton flew B-52's 1975 to 1981 and T-43's. From 1981 – 1997 Milton was a Tenured associate Professor at the Air Force Academy- Colorado Springs, CO.

Pierson, Benjamin Emil 'Benjie' – 1950 - 2010
1969 – 1973
US Navy



Enlisted with Joel Fuentes on the “Buddy System”

Ben entered the Navy Reserves in June of 69 and completed his reserve service and was separated from the Navy in June of 1975. He was called for active duty in Jan of 1971 and released from active duty in Jan of 1973. He served off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam and some in Japan. He was on board the USS Richard B. Anderson. Ben was in radio Operations...Ben received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and Combat Action Ribbon.

Account gladly provided by Benjie’s wife, Becky Pierson - Coppell, TX.

Becky, her family and we lost Benjie to cancer earlier this year. We thank Becky, son Luke & daughter Lindsey for their demonstration of faith, hope and courage. Becky and her Family share the love of God with all in our Lanier Class 1969

Radney, James Carlton – 1951 - 1982

1969 – 1982

US Navy



James Carlton Radney
Austin, Texas



Second Set: (l. to r.) J. Mahaley, J. Radney,
J. Zirtman.

U.S. Naval Academy, Lt. Commander - Naval aviator, rotor-wing aircraft-SH-2F SeaSprite. We lost James during regular naval flight duties in and about Florida.

John Fleming found his "Lucky Bag" (yearbook) from the Naval Academy and offers a couple of pictures of James. James was Twelfth (12th) Company Commander our 1stClass (senior) year. He is centered in the above picture to the right, the gentleman with 3 stripes on his sleeve. His years at the Academy are described in this way by John:

"Go Horns, Go!" James is dubbed 'Rad' from his earliest days at the Academy. "James' love of football and sports in any area has been surpassed only by his affection for a sweet Texas girl who made the miles between Annapolis and Austin a minor barrier to happiness".

Williams, Jesse James
1970 – 1971
US Army



Viet Nam vet,
MOS: Clerk Typist
G3 Plans Division
HHC XXIV Corps
Da Nang, 50 miles from the DMZ
Clerk for 6 Majors and two Lt. Colonels, our guys planned the war top secret security clearance...army intelligence interviewed several high school buddies before granting clearance, even as far back to elementary school. Jesse typed the orders from President Nixon to: “stand down” and to start sending troops home.