



William Richard Griffiths Co B-1

Out of Brooklyn's concrete jungle came Her Majesty's own, Willis Rollo Griffiths. Endowed with a perceptive sense of humor, a deep intellectual curiosity, a steadfast belief in his own principles, and a somewhat obnoxious admiration for all things British. Rollo lambasted and cajoled West Point into submission. He used his four years here as a stepping stone to greater things.

Born – 7 May 1939 in New York

To USMA – from Brooklyn, NY. Appointed as a Qualified Alternate. Nickname – “Rollo”.

Died – 10 Oct. 2017 (age 78) at Tierra Verde, FL. Buried at Bay Pines National Cemetery, Pinellas County, FL.

Military Awards – Silver Star Medal, 3 Bronze Star Medals (one with V), 11 Air Medals, 5 Army Commendation Medals (one with V), Meritorious Service Medal, 2 Legion of Merit Medals, Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB).

Schooling – MA Degree in History, Rice University, MMAS Degree, Command and General Staff College, CGSC.

Family - Wife – Patricia Griffiths (55 years) – 3 children (Leigh, Richard and Suzanne) – 1 grandchild.

Contact – Pat Griffiths, Address 1595 Pinellas Bayway South, Tierra Verde, FL 33715, Phone 727-906-4685, Email billgrif@tampabay.rr.com.

Bill served on active duty in the Army (Armor) for 28 years, retiring in 1989, with the rank of Colonel. His first assignment was with the 69th Armor, Schofield Barracks, HI. He then served at Fort Knox, KY (Armor Advance Course), Vietnam (1st tour - MACV), CONUS (Theater Army Replacement Command, TARC), Houston, TX (Rice University, MA Degree in History), Fort Leavenworth, KS (Command and General Staff College, CGSC, Masters Degree in Military Art and Science, MMAS), Vietnam (second tour – 1st Cavalry RVN), West Point, NY (Instructor in Military Art and History, History Department), Fort Eustis, VA (Training and Doctrine Command, TRADOC), Fort Riley, KS (Commander, 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry), Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD (Headquarters, Research Engineering Development Command, REDCOM), Korea (Commanding Officer, 1st CSTm), Pentagon, VA (Director of the Joint Doctrine Center, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, OJCS, and Independent Command at the MacDill Air Force Base).

After leaving active duty in the Army, Bill worked in various capacities as an advocate for Veterans obtaining employment and careers. He served in the State Department of Labor, the Veterans Employment and Training Service and in WorkNet Pinellas as the Veteran Program Manager. Bill passed away on 10 October 2010, from an apparent heart attack.

Footnote From Bill – “While we might be tempted to change a few specifics, on the whole, we would not want to have done anything differently. A good life, with good friends and family – what more could a boy from the streets of Brooklyn have wished for?”