



Gordon Kenneth Downey, Jr. Co D-2

Gordy joined our class after spending three years in the Airborne. A sense of humor and an insatiable desire for his "brown boy" made him unique. Weekends always found him with a pretty little thing - and always, variety. Spring Valley was his haunt, and the parties there will be remembered by all of old "Delta Deuce," especially "Wee Willy" the rum hound.

Born – 30 Aug 1936, Puerto Rico.

To USMA – Came from Raton, NM. Appointed by Oklahoma 2nd. Nicknames – “Gordy”, “G.K.”.

Died – 15 Dec 2009 (age 73) at Scottsdale, AZ. Buried at West Point.

Military Awards – Received awards from his service in Vietnam, but seldom discussed them, even with his closest family and friends. Probably a Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, etc.

Schooling – Unknown.

Family - Wife – Sue Downey – 3 children (Melia, James, and Aimee) – 3 grandchildren.

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Gordy served on active duty in the Army (Infantry) for 6 years, resigning in 1967, with the rank of Captain. His first assignment was with the 501st Infantry Regiment. He then served in Okinawa (Executive Officer, 173rd Airborne), Vietnam (Company Commander, C Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division), Ft. Benning (Public Information Officer, PIO).

After leaving active duty in the Army, Gordy returned to Des Moines, IA, where he entered the trucking business with Ruan Trucking and later founded Trolex, a construction business specializing in foam applications and dome buildings in Iowa and Texas. Years later, the Veterans Administration declared him 100% disabled due to his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. Gordy passed away on 15 December 2009, from pneumonia.

Footnote – Gordy loved the Army and West Point and embraced the Honor Code. His biggest disappointment in life was the fact that some chose to live by another code. He trusted all, even to his detriment.