



Richard Evan McNear Co E-1

As an army brat Dick joined the Corps with a sincere desire to become an army officer. His good nature won him many friends. His devotion to studies was second to his athletic endeavors, which occupied most of his extracurricular time. Being a hard worker, he always does a job well, a definite asset for his future career.

Born – 23 November 1937, at Harrisburg, PA.
To USMA – from Harrisburg, PA. Appointed from Texas.

Died – 8 September 2017 (age 79) at his farm near Washington, VA. Buried at Greenwood Farm Cemetery, Washington, VA.

Military Awards – Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Schooling – MS Degree in Engineering, Purdue University.

Family - Wife – Nancy (Jeanie) Beeghly (48 years) – 3 children (Jennifer, Susannah, Laura) – 9 grandchildren.

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Dick served on active duty in the Army (Corps of Engineers) for 9 years, resigning in 1970, with the rank of Major. His first assignment was with the 19th Combat Engineer Battalion at Fort Meade, MD (platoon leader, battalion S-3, company commander of C company). He then served in Korea (company commander, 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division), Fort Belvoir, VA (Engineer Advance Course), West Lafayette, IN (Purdue University), Vietnam (15th Engineer Battalion U.S. and RVN), Pentagon (DoD Joint Service Staff, Manpower).

After leaving active duty in the Army, Dick worked for a defense contractor and taught math in a public school for a short period of time. He then had a successful career as a planning manager and advisor in local government and a farmer raising purebred Angus cattle and horses on his one thousand acre Hilltop farm in Gid Brown Hollow, VA on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Northern Virginia. He was the Planning Engineer and Director of Planning and Zoning, Fauquier County, VA for 20 years. He taught Comprehensive Planning and Zoning at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA, and also served as a board member of the Rappahannock County, VA Farmer's Association and the Piedmont Environmental Council. He won a Fauquier County Citizen of the year award and had been recognized by the Virginia State General Assembly for his contributions to planning in Virginia. Dick passed away on 8 September 2017, from cancer.

Footnote – Dick's daughter, Jennifer Jo (McNear) Loutzenheiser followed in her Dad's footsteps. She attended and graduated from West Point in the Class of 1994. She also chose the Corps of Engineers as her Army branch. Her first assignment was with the 7th Combat Engineer Battalion, 5th Infantry Division at Fort Polk, LA.