



Henry Peter Van Gorder Co E-1

The achievement of the Rip Van Winkle award for sleeping through breakfast for two consecutive months precludes the necessity of mentioning Hank's addiction to the "brown boy." From East Barracks to graduation, Hank has been a staunch member of Easy One, easy-going with a good sense of humor. "No sweat" Hank will be a success in all future endeavors.

Born – 31 Jan 1939, Chicago, IL.

To USMA – Came from Dunedin, FL. Appointed by Illinois 9th. Nickname – “Hank”.

Died – 9 Oct 2002 (age 63) at Plantation General Hospital, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Buried at West Point.

Military Awards – Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal.

Schooling – Command and General Staff College, Master's Degree, Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College.

Family - Wife – Wendy Dawson Van Gorder (46 years – married the same month of graduation) – 3 daughters (Lisa, Peggy and Heather) – 3 plus grandchildren.

Contact – Wendy Van Gorder, Address 2451 Southwest 27th Terrace, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312, Phone 954-584-4868, Email wvg111@att.net

Hank served on active duty in the Army (Artillery) for 27 years, retiring in 1988, with the rank of Colonel. His first assignment was with the 8th Artillery, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI, which included a four-month deployment to Thailand. He then served at Ft. Campbell, KY (Battery Commander, 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division), Vietnam (first tour - Battery Commander, 211th Artillery). Hank's battery fought in III Corps and moved to I Corps in 1967 as part of Task Force Oregon, later to become the Americal Division, Presidio, San Francisco, CA (Protocol Officer for Headquarters, Sixth Army), Ft. Leavenworth, KS (Command and General Staff College), Vietnam (second tour - Deputy G-3 Advisor, III Corps), Monterey, CA (Naval Post Graduate School), Pentagon (MIS Staff Officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff-Research, Development, and Acquisition, and in the Office of the Chief of Staff as Operations Research Analysis), Ft. Leonard Wood, MO (Training Battalion Commander), Stuttgart, Germany (Chief, Nuclear Surety Branch, Headquarters, European Command), Newport, RI (Naval War College), Berlin, Germany (Chief of Staff, Allied Staff), Vincenza, Italy (G-3, Southern European Task Force), Ft. Jackson, SC (Senior Advisor, 120th Army Command).

After retiring from active duty with the Army, Hank worked for Sikorsky International Products. The period from 1988-97 found Hank and Wendy on the move, living in Washington, D.C., Connecticut, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Wendy was renowned for her sense of humor, offering pink gas masks to wives when inviting them to visit Riyadh during the 1991 Gulf War. Hank retired from his civilian career in 1997. Hank passed away on 9 October 2002. He had been cured from throat cancer, but his immune system had been weakened and he had complications from shingles, pneumonia.

Footnote from Hank - During the trying times of his illness, Hank often reflected, "No matter how much money or fame a man could gain, the only true thing of value a man could leave behind is his children." (and grandchildren)