



**Ralph Bonner Garretson, Jr. Co E-2**

*Ralph came from an Army family with the idea of carving for himself a career in the service. A ready smile and an easy going attitude involved him in more than a few jousts with the system. But he emerged unscathed. Love of the Army and ability to get the job done will stand him in good stead upon graduation.*

**Born** – 6 Dec. 1939, Texas. Army Brat.

**To USMA** – Came from Sanford, CO. Appointed by Arizona 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Died** – 4 Oct. 1987 (age 47) at Midland, TX. Buried at Fort Bayard National Cemetery, Fort Bayard, NM.

**Military Awards** – Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal, 2 Air Medals, 2 Army Commendation Medals, Meritorious Service Medal.

**Schooling** – Master of Business Administration, MBA Degree, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Command and General Staff College, CGSC.

**Family** - Wife – Diana (“Punkie”) Garretson (deceased) – 2 children (Ralph and Ellis) – 5 step children (Croft, Chris, Mary Kay, David, Steven) – 9 grandchildren.

**Contact** – Dr. Ralph Garretson III (son), Address 52 West Shirley Avenue, Building A, Warrenton, VA 20186, Phone 540-347-9220, Email unknown, and Ellis Cain (daughter), Address 5 Barlow House Court, Stafford, VA 22554, Phone 540-722-3626, Email unknown.

Ralph served on active duty in the Army (Armor) for 23 years, retiring in 1984, with the rank of Lt. Colonel. His first assignment was with the 77<sup>th</sup> Armor. He then served in Germany and U.S. (11<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment), Korea (Advisor, Korean Military Assistance Group, KMAG), Ft. Knox, KY (Armor Advanced Course), Vietnam (5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry), West Point, NY (Instructor, Office of Military Instruction, OMI), Ft. Leavenworth, KS (Student, Command and General Staff College), Teaneck, NJ (Fairleigh Dickinson University), Germany (15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division), White Sands Missile Range (TRADOC Systems Analysis Activity, TRASANA). Ralph passed away on 4 October 1987.

Footnote from Classmate, Bob Cairns – One of Ralph’s more memorable escapades occurred while he was teaching at West Point. About 1972, a bunch of Cadets stole the Navy Goat and were looking for some way to transport it to Philly. One of the Instructors, Bob Cairns, said, “I had an old truck which I bought from the Army Athletic Association, and some asked me to cart the goat the Philly. The truck was a wreck. I didn’t think it would make it, so ultimately Ralph took the goat to Philly in an RV he owned; and the Cadets were able to parade it around at the game.”