



Walter William Hodge, Jr. Co G-2

Herky has come a long way since the good old prep school days. The only one of the "boys" to get any rank, Herky has had to overcome many obstacles in the road to success. Deprived of shaking out his old rug, Herky turned his attention to frequent trips to the roof. We will never forget his unmatched wit.

Born – 15 Apr 1938, St. Louis, MO. Army Brat. His father was USMA '25.

To USMA – Came from Tucson, AZ. Appointed by Arizona Senator Hayden. Nicknames – "Walt", "Herky".

Died – 10 Mar 2004 (age 65) at Casa Grande Regional Medical Center, Arizona City, AZ. Buried at Family land in Williams, AZ near Flagstaff, AZ.

Military Awards – 2 Air Medals, Vietnamese Expeditionary Medal.

Schooling – Unknown.

Family - Wife – Nancy Hodge (23 years) – 1 son (William) – 1 grandchild.

Contact – Nancy Hodge, Address PO Box 2227 Arizona City, AZ 85223, Phone 520-494-8212, Email unknown.

Walt served on active duty in the Army (Infantry) for 4 years, resigning in 1965, with the rank of 1st. Lieutenant. His first assignment was with the 25th Infantry Division (Platoon Leader) in Hawaii. He then served in Thailand and Vietnam with the Division. In 1963, he volunteered to lead a platoon of helicopter gunners into Vietnam. It was one of the first groups of American combat troops in Vietnam and they returned with no casualties.

After leaving active duty in the Army, Walt became an Educator / Teacher. He taught GED classes at Phoenix College and was a Veterans Counselor and founded Career Exploration Academy. He went to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Kayenta and counseled Navajo students. While working at Shonto Boarding School, he was President of the teachers union. He also was Superintendent of Paloma School District and taught at Coconino Community College in Page, AZ. He later was a Counselor at Desert Shadows Middle School in Nogales. He wrote a book that he was trying to get published titled - "What Do You Want to Be, Now That You Are Grown Up?" Walt passed away on 10 March 2004, from lung and brain tumors.

Footnote - Walt was buried in a worn set of combat fatigues, probably from his service in Vietnam, and a red baseball cap with the Airborne Wings and Ranger Tab on the hat.