



**John O'Neill Turnage Co H-2**

*Silent and determined, little comment was heard from Jack, until we came to know him. Then he erupted, revealing his innate devilry and jovial sense of humor. Jack's abilities were never questioned as his performance was invariably outstanding, his red girl notwithstanding. His magnetic ways with undoubtedly gain for him in the future the admiration and friendship so notably deserved.*

**Born** – 5 July 1939 in Panama. Army brat - Father Class of '36.

**To USMA** – from Charleston, SC. Appointed by MD Congressman.

**Died** – 16 Feb. 2023 (age 83) at Augusta, GA. Buried at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church Columbarium.

**Military Awards** – Distinguished Fly Cross, Bronze Star Medal, 28 Air Medals, Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

**Schooling** – Masters Degree in Aerospace Engineering, Virginia Tech University. Project Management, Defense Systems Management College, CGSC.

**Family** - Wife – Helen (Daniel) Turnage (29 years) – 4 children (John Jr. USAFA '88, Annalye, Emilie, Taylor (deceased) and 2 step-children – 11 grandchildren and 1 step-grandchild.

**Contact** – Helen Turnage, Address 1120 Glenn Avenue, Augusta, GA 30904, Phone unknown, Email unknown.

Jack served on active duty in the Army (Infantry, Aviation) for 24 years, retiring in 1985, with the rank of Colonel. His first assignment was with the 504<sup>th</sup>, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He then served at Fort Rucker, AL (fixed & rotary wing pilot training), Vietnam (1st tour – I Corps Aviation Company), Fort Benning, GA (Company Commander & Leadership Dept. Instructor), Vietnam (2<sup>nd</sup> tour – 23<sup>rd</sup> Artillery Group), Germany (Executive Officer, 2/36 Battalion), Fort Leavenworth, KS (Student, CGSC), Blacksburg, VA (Student, Virginia Tech University), Fort Rucker, AL (Aviation Development Test Activity, Branch Chief, Sikorsky Team Chief, Deputy Commander for Test), Fort Belvoir, VA (Student, Defense Systems Management College), St. Louis, MO (Assistant Project Manager for R&D, Blackhawk Program), Fort Rucker, AL (Deputy Commander and Commander for Test, Aviation Development Test Activity).

After leaving active duty in the Army, Jack had a successful career in civilian aviation and business. He was the Manager of St. Louis Operations of the McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Company. Later he started a successful payroll company with his wife, Helen. Jack passed away on 16 February 2023.

Footnote from Jack – “We have been very blessed. I look back and probably wouldn't change a thing. If I did, I wouldn't be where I am today. I like it here!”