



Frank Thomas Blanda Co F-2

Tom's major goal was to play good football; this he did. But in addition, he managed to squeeze in baseball, the Dean's List, and his guitar playing. A raconteur of the first magnitude, the Blanda joke is well known to all of his many friends. We know that his army career will be as successful as his cadet career.

Born – 4 Feb 1940, Young Wood, PA.

To USMA – Came from Youngwood, PA.
Appointed by Illinois, 1st.

Died – 21 July 2005 (age 65) at North Central Hospital, San Antonio, TX. Buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

Military Awards – Bronze Star Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Schooling – Master's Degree in Math, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Command and General Staff College.

Family - Wife – Brenda Blanda – 3 daughters (Juli, Holly and Mary) – 3 grandchildren.

Contact – Brenda Blanda, Address 107 Colima Street, Seguin, TX 78155, Phone 210-227-8828, Email bjblanda@yahoo.com

Tom served on active duty in the Army (Artillery) for 24 years, retiring in 1985, with the rank of Lt. Colonel. His first assignment was with the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, KY. He then served in Vietnam (first tour - 173rd Airborne Brigade), Troy, NY (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Vietnam (second tour – Advisor, MACV), Ft. Leavenworth, KS (Command and General Staff College), West Point, NY (Instructor, Math Department), Honolulu, HI (Airborne Command, Pacific Command, PACOM), Pentagon (Command and General Staff), Ft. Sam Houston, TX (Headquarters, 5th Army).

After retirement from active duty in the Army, Tom taught math at Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, University of Incarnate Word, and Texas Military Institute (TMI) in San Antonio, TX. Tom passed away on 21 July 2005, from a heart attack.

Footnote – Frank was Army's quarterback his junior and senior years and won Second Team All America honors. He later received an offer to play professional football with the St. Louis Cardinals Football Team. After taking a week to think about it, he declined the offer. He felt an obligation to stay in the Army because the Army had paid for his education. Around the same time, his older brother, future Pro Football Hall of Famer George Blanda, was leading the American Football League in pass attempts and completions.