



Nicholas Stephen Plodinec III Co H-1

Nick, a conservative worker, was not without his gayer moments, and he and his Spanish guitar will long be remembered both at West Point and Steuben's. We know that the success that he has had here will follow him throughout his career.

Born – 16 Jan. 1939 in Pennsylvania.

To USMA – from Aliquippa, PA on the Ohio River, 30 miles northwest of downtown Pittsburgh.

Died – 17 Nov. 2020 (age 81) at Beaver, PA. Buried at Beaver Cemetery, PA.

Military Awards – Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Others.

Schooling – Master's Degree in Business Management, Central Michigan University, College of Naval Command and Staff.

Family - Wife – Doris Ann (Cookie) Zdranick Plodinec (54 years, deceased in 2018) – 1 child (Nicholas IV – deceased early in life) – No grandchildren.

Contact – Ronald G. Plodinec (brother), Address 223 Princeton, Drive, Aliquippa, PA, south of Beaver on the Ohio River, Phone 724-728-4691, Email unknown.

Nick served on active duty in the Air Force for 21 years, retiring in 1982, with the rank of Lt. Colonel. His first assignment was pilot training. He then served with the 30th Military Airlift Service (MAS) Squadron and 443rd Military Air (MA) Wing during the Vietnam War, then Newport, RI, (College of Naval Command and Staff, C&CS), Nakhon Phenom, Thailand (361st Tactical Electronic Warfare TEW Squadron), then 30th Military Airlift Service (MAS) Squadron, Mount Pleasant, MI (Central Michigan University, Graduate Student), Newport, RI (Assistant Professor, Naval War College). Other of the 15 places Nick and Cookie lived during his military career include Savannah, GA, Trenton, NJ, Runheim and Langen, Germany, Montgomery, AL, Altus (C-141 school) and Oklahoma City, OK.

After leaving active duty in the Air Force, Nick then had a successful career as a Flight Crew Training Instructor for USAir Airlines using simulators. During this time, he helped design the course study for pilot training for the Boeing 737 airplane. Nick and Cookie returned to western PA and bought the historic River Run home (1805) at 800 River Road, in Beaver, PA overlooking the Ohio River. It is located near the site of Fort McIntosh, a Revolutionary War Patriot frontier fort. Nick passed away on 17 November 2020.

Footnote from Nick – “In Firstie Year, it was announced that seven of us could go directly into Air Force Pilot Training. I was one of those seven....The Air Force career was exciting. The worldwide flying experience reinforced my belief that we truly live in the finest country in the world.”