



**John Joseph Neiger III Co M-1**

*John came to West Point from Washington University in St. Louis. In Beast Barracks he distinguished himself as a leading contender for Corps Squad, alternating between squash and "brown boy." John forced his way past the academics in fine form despite a few close calls by several departments. This happy go-lucky fellow will make friends wherever he goes."*

**Born** – 31 Dec. 1936 at St. Louis, MO. John's father was John J. Neiger Jr, USMA '35.

**To USMA** – from St. Louis, MO. Appointed as a SDV, Son of a Deceased or Disabled Veteran). Nicknames – "JJ" (for John Joseph), "Red Man" (for his face turning red when working out).

**Died** – 10 Feb. 2021 (age 84) at Kankakee, IL. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Military Awards** – Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal.

**Schooling** – Army Artillery Schools.

**Family** – 1<sup>st</sup> Wife – Elizabeth (Beth) Neiger – 2 children (Tracy and John IV) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wife – Barbara Bastian Neiger - 2 step-children (Julie and Amy) – 5 grandchildren.

**Contact** – Barbara Neiger (wife), Address 3115 Town Square Drive #201, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, Phone 727-667-0420, Email bbneigert@mac.com and Tracy Simon (daughter), Email tracysimon@optonline.net.

John served on active duty in the Army (Artillery) for 9 years, resigning in 1970, with the rank of Major. His first assignment was with missile battalions. He then served in Korea (44<sup>th</sup> Artillery), Fort Sill, OK and Fort Bliss, TX (Advanced Artillery and Missile School, A&MS), Vietnam (Battery Commander, 94<sup>th</sup> Artillery), West Point, NY (Tactical Officer).

After leaving active duty in the Army, John had a successful career in business. He also continued to serve in the Army Reserve where he retired as a Lt. Colonel. He worked for the Telephone Factory (President), Fairchild Communications (Site Director), American Comm. (Partner), Neiger Co (President), Wall Street Timing (President). John passed away on 10 February 2021.

John III was appointed to West Point as a Son of a Deceased or Disabled Veteran (SDV). His father, John J. Neiger, Jr., was a West Point graduate in the Class of 1935. He was serving in the Army in the Philippines when World War II broke out. He was part of the surrender to the Japanese, survived the infamous Bataan Death March and then survived several Japanese prison camps – Camp O'Donnell, Camp Cabanatuan No. 1, Camp Billbid. In December 1944, as the American Army was closing in, John's father and other POW's were placed on the Japanese transport ship, Oryoko Maru, for transport to slave labor camps in Japan. The ship was not marked as having POW's on-board and was strafed and bombed by the American Army Air Force. John's father was killed after surviving almost 3 years in harsh captivity. John III later wrote – "West Point is the best legacy my father could have passed on to me."

Footnote - John was a cousin of Gary Moore, who had a popular variety television show in the late 1950's and early 60's which was broadcast live from New York City. John sometimes took classmates to the shows where they were able to meet Gary Moore, Carol Burnett, Durward Kirby and other cast members after the end of the show.