



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

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**BEARD, COLONEL RUTLAND DUCKETT JR. '42**

Died 21 December 2008. After heart surgery. He was 84.

Colonel Beard graduated from Augusta in 1942 and entered VMI, where he was advised to join the Army Reserve in order to ensure that he would be allowed to complete his studies. He was called up anyway in 1943 and went to war with the 102d Infantry Division, through Holland and Germany. The 102d met the Russian Army on 8 May 1945 at the Elbe River

He returned home and married Lucille Stewart in 1946. He graduated from Georgetown's Foreign Service School in 1948, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army and was assigned to occupation duties in Japan. He was there when the Korean War broke out.

As a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, he was part of the US forces initially hit by the Chinese troops as they entered the war. He said that he had crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel six times before rotating home wearing his second Combat Infantry Badge (CIB).

Subsequent assignments had him participate in nuclear weapons tests, oversee the evacuation of Americans from Trieste, and join in the occupation of Berlin after the airlift. He served as PMS&T at Ohio State University, graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, and planned an invasion of Cuba which never took place.

Colonel Beard was one of the officers chosen to conduct a study of airmobile maneuvering by helicopter. The success of that study led to the organization and deployment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division, in which he later commanded battalions. His final command was the 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in Da Nang, Vietnam, where he earned his third CIB. He is one of 230 officers to have enjoyed that status when he retired in 1978 after 38 years of active duty.

Survived by his sons: Rutland III, David S., and Dr. Jonathan Beard; a daughter, Kathe Beard-Garren; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

At Augusta two years: CPL, Company A; swimming, track, fencing, and JV basketball; Monogram Club; Honor Roll.

(2009 Winter **Bayonet**)