



James Steven Blesse Co A-2

The rebel came to us with a smile on his face. When not struggling with the academic and tactical departments or the “brown boy,” he could usually be found working on some wild idea. With his interest in the service and wine, women, and song, Jim spent an unforgettable four years on the “Rock” and looks to the future with much expectation.

Born – 16 September 1939 in California. Army brat, half-brother (USMA '45).

To USMA – from Richmond, VA. Appointed from Virginia.

Died – 11 July 2024 (age 84) at Fort Monroe, VA. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Military Awards – Silver Star Medal, 2 Bronze Star Medals (one with V), Purple Heart, 12 Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, 2 Legion of Merit Medals, Meritorious Service Medal.

Schooling – Master of Science MS Degree in Operations Research / Systems Analysis, Georgia Tech University, Master of Business Administration MBA Degree, University of Texas, Command & General Staff College CGSC.

Family - Wife – Bobbie Blesse – 3 children (Joseph, Debra, Steven) – 2 step-children (Meg, Bryan) 4 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren.

Contact – Bobbie Blesse, Address 2 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651, Phone unknown, Email unknown.

Jim served on active duty in the Army (Infantry) for 20 years, retiring in 1981, with the rank of Lt Colonel. His first assignment was with the 3/508 Airborne (Platoon Leader & Company Commander) in the Panama Canal Zone, CZ. He then served in the Dominican Republic (7th Special Forces Group, SFG), Vietnam (1st tour – 5th Special Forces Group), Fort Benning (The Infantry School, TIS advanced course), Vietnam (2nd & 3rd tours – Assistant G1, 9th Infantry Division RVN and then S3 2/60th Infantry Battalion), Atlanta Georgia (Assistant Professor of Military Science APMS, Georgia Tech University), Fort Leavenworth, KS (Student, Command & General Staff College CGSC), Fort Bliss, TX (Staff & Faculty, Air Defense School ADS), Austin, TX (Student, University of Texas), Fort Bliss, TX (Branch Chief, Combat Development Command CDC), Germany (Inspector General IG, 3rd Infantry Division and then Commanding Officer, 1/36th Infantry, 3rd Armored Division), Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD (Analyst, Operational & Test Evaluation Agency OTEA).

After leaving active duty in the Army, Jim had a successful career in government contracting. He worked for Advanced Technology, Inc. (Principal Analyst), Planning Research Corporation PRC (Program Director), CBIS, Andrus Research Corporation (Operations Center Director), Tibco Software, Inc. (Project Manager) and Advancia Corporation (Director of Business Development). Jim passed away on 11 July 2024, from prostate cancer.

Footnote from Jim - “West Point provided that opportunity, and I learned that ‘if you want to have fun, join the infantry’.....Upon departing (my last assignment in the Army at OTEA), I received a plaque stating ‘to the Smartest Grunt in the World. What an honor”.