



Benjamin R. Wilkerson, Jr. Co E-2

**Former Classmate
Graduated with the Class of 1962**

Born – 9 Sept. 1937, Franklin, TN.

To USMA – from Franklin, TN. Nickname – “Rusty”.

Died – 30 March 2017 (age 79) at Kingsport, TN. Buried at West Point.

Military Awards – 3 Bronze Star Medals, 4 Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB).

Schooling – Master’s Degree in Public Administration, Western Kentucky University.

Family - Wife – Gini Wilkerson (51 years) – 3 children (Cathy, Marci, Ginny) – 5 grandchildren.

Contact – Gini Wilkerson, Address 1209 White Street, Kingsport, TN 37664, Phone unknown, Email unknown.

Rusty served on active duty in the Army (Infantry) for 15 years, resigning in 1976, with the rank of Major. He then served in the Army Reserve retiring as a Lt. Colonel. His first assignment was with the 1st Infantry Division. He then served in Vietnam (1st tour, MACV), Fort Polk, LA (Company Commander, Army Training Center, ArTC and Aide de Camp, Deputy Commanding General, 4th Army, AdCDCG4Ar), Fort Benning, GA (Infantry Advanced Course), Vietnam (2nd tour, Headquarters 173rd Airborne Brigade and U.S. Army RVN), Panama Canal Zone (Tropical Test Center), Fort Campbell, KY (S1 – Manpower / Personnel, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and S3 - Operations, 501st Infantry).

After retiring from active duty in the Army, Rusty served as the Chief of the Environmental Office, ChEnvO, and Deputy Director of Engineering and Housing, DDEH, both at Fort Campbell, KY and then as the Public Works Director for the City of Kingsport, TN. Rusty passed away on 30 March 2017, from brain cancer.