



John Phillips Lawton Co L-1

Former Classmate

Born – 18 June 1937 at the Presidio, San Francisco, CA. Father, LTG William Lawton, USMA '22, two brothers, USMA '47 and '58.

To USMA – from Florida. Appointed from Florida.

Died – 3 Sep 2015 (age 78) at Vienna, VA. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Military Awards – Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), 2 Silver Star Medals, 7 Bronze Star Medals (one with V), 4 Purple Hearts, 4 Air Medals (one with V), Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Soldier's Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with V), Combat Infantryman's Badge, Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

Schooling – BA Degree, University of South Florida, MS Degree, Shippensburg University, Command and General Staff College, Army War College.

Family - Wife – Barbara Jean Dorman Lawton (45 years) – 5 children (Matthew, USMA '98, Kathleen, Andrew, Mary, Michael) – 4 grandchildren.

Contact – Barbara Lawton, Address 10120 Westford Drive, 22182, Vienna, VA, Phone 703-757-4950, Email unknown.

John served on active duty in the Army (Infantry) for 37 years (which included his time at West Point and the Prep School) and was medically retired in 1991 from previous combat wounds, with the rank of Colonel. After leaving West Point at the end of 1959 (Class of '62), John attended and obtained a BA Degree in History and English from the University of South Florida. He attended Army Officer Candidate School (OCS). He then served at Ft. Rucker, AL (Aviation School), Training Company (Company Commander), Vietnam (first tour – Company Commander, 2nd Battalion, 327th Airborne Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division), Vietnam (second tour – 503rd, 173rd Airborne Regiment; Long Range Reconnaissance Company Commander, 75th Infantry - RVN LRP and Rangers), Ft. Dix, NJ (Battalion Commander, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Basic Training Brigade), Ft. Benning, GA, Pentagon, Ft. Leavenworth, KS (Command and General Staff College), Germany (Commander, Special Forces B Detachment in Bad Toelz, S-3 with the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Assistant G-3 and G-3, V Corps), Carlisle, PA (Army War College and Shippensburg University). John was among the most decorated members of the Class of 1961.

After retiring from active duty in the Army, John served in several roles with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. including serving as the Assistant to the VA Director and Chief of Staff of the National Cemetery System. John passed away on 3 September 2015.

Footnote from John's children – "Dad said that each day he lived after October 8, 1967, was a gift. His friends and family were the most important things to him in the world, as was the U.S. Army." (Note - On October 8, 1967, Captain Lawton was severely wounded in Vietnam when enemy bullets struck him in the chest, leg and arm).