

**Donald Wayne Watlington Co L-1**

*What can you say about someone who displays pictures of girls, heifers, and beagle hounds – all in the same frame. He wouldn't 'drag' if it meant another pack of cigarettes, and his famous words echo in our ears, 'There's not a damn thing wrong with my accent.*

**Born** – 24 Apr 1939, South Boston, VA.

**To USMA** – Came from South Boston, VA.

Appointed by Virginia 5<sup>th</sup>. Nicknames – "Al", "T".

**Died** – 2 Sep 1983 (age 44) at Lawton, OK. Buried at Highland Cemetery, Lawton, OK.

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

**Schooling** – Course work toward a CPA, Cameron University.

**Family** - Wife – Jacqueline (Jackie) Miller Watlington – 2 children (Del and Tom) – grandchildren.

**Contact** – Jackie Watlington, Louisiana. Bobby Ratliff (cousin).

Don served on active duty in the Army (Artillery and then Adjutant General Corps) for 14 years, medically discharged with a service connected illness in 1975, with the rank of Major. His first assignment was with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Artillery, at Ft. Hood, TX. He then served in Turkey, Ft. Sill (Artillery Advanced Course), Vietnam (Field Artillery unit), McConnell AFB (where Don participated in the early efforts of the stealth bomber project), Vietnam (Field Artillery unit), Ft. Hood (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 78<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, also Executive Officer and then Protocol Officer, Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Armor Division. Don was instrumental in planning for and executing the state funeral for President Lyndon B. Johnson in January 1973. In 1974, he branch transferred to the Adjutant General's Corps in 1974.

After his discharge from active duty in the Army, Don and his family moved to Lawton, OK, where he was employed by the City of Lawton. He was instrumental in the conversion of the accounting department from paper to an electronic data processing system. Don passed away on 2 September 1983, from lung cancer.

