

Obituary: Colonel RICHARD D. HOOKER, SR. (Ret.)

Colonel Richard "Dick" Hooker, Sr. passed away on October 24, 2014 at his home in Preston, MD at the age of 80.

A native of Pass Christian, Mississippi, Colonel Hooker graduated with Distinguished Honors and an active duty commission from the ROTC program at the University of Mississippi, where he also served as president of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and editor of the university newspaper. Colonel Hooker initially served with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, and then with the 8th Division Airborne Brigade in Mainz, Germany. Following the advanced infantry officer course and one year of Vietnamese language training, he began the first of three tours in Vietnam as an advisor to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Regiment, 5th Army Division of the Republic of Vietnam, followed by assignment as aide-de-camp to General William Westmoreland, Commander U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam. He then served as an instructor at the Armor School, Fort Knox, before attending Command and General Staff College and then returning to the Republic of Vietnam to serve as G3 Plans Officer, HQ IIFV (1st Field Force, Vietnam), Nha Trang, and subsequently assuming command of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry (M), Task Force South, IFFV, Phan Thiet.



Following five years in the Pentagon with the Army Staff and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colonel Hooker was assigned to the U.S. Military Mission to Iran. This tour of duty was followed by assignments as Army attaché to the Philippines, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Military Training Mission in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and immediately thereafter as Chief, Office of Military Cooperation, Beirut, Lebanon and Senior U.S. Defense Representative to Lebanon. Colonel Hooker completed his military career in Washington, DC as Special Assistant to the Defense Intelligence Officer for Asia, Defense Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon. He retired from active duty in 1987 after 31 years of service.

His awards and decorations included three awards of the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, eight air medals, various meritorious and commendation medals, and the Lebanese Order of the Cedars, Degree of Commander, Vietnamese Medal of Honor, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He had also been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachute Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Saudi Arabian Parachute Badge and Philippine Army Parachute Badge.

Following his retirement, Colonel Hooker was a consultant, editor and writer, and lived on the Choptank River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie McLemore Hooker, and is survived by three children: Dorothy Hooker Pearce of Newport News, VA, Colonel Richard D. Hooker Jr. of McLean, VA, and MaryAnne Martin of Smithfield, VA; seven grandchildren: Megan Duncan, Evelyn Pearce, Christopher Hooker, Richard David Hooker III, Rachel Dees, Price Martin, and Victoria Martin; and a great-granddaughter, Cadence Duncan.

Interment with full military honors was at Arlington National Cemetery on April 8, 2015 at 1100.



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