

## George Robertson - class grandchildren

10/30/2020



Jack Downing sent me a note from **George Robertson's** son, Russ, telling of George's granddaughter, **Dana Robertson' 17**, with a couple of great pictures of her. Russ wrote "After graduation, Dana went to Fort Sill for Field Artillery Officer Basic. She then went to Germany to serve with the 2nd Calvary in Vilseck. She has served in numerous positions, including Platoon Leader, Fire Support Officer, Fire Direction Officer, and currently the Executive Officer of Battery B in the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Calvary.

She

has taken full advantage of the assignment, travelling throughout Europe. She is currently deployed in Poland and will be there until her return back to the States in December. In spite of the COVID situation and deployment, she was able to make it back for Dad's funeral in August. She will attend the Field Artillery Career Course beginning in January 2021 and requesting an assignment to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell." Russ added, here "are two of my favorite recent photos. Feel free to choose which one works best. She's happy in both!



## From Savannah, Georgia –Homes and Museums of interest

10/30/2020

I got a note from **Roger and Laurelei Waddell**. Roger wrote, "Laurelei and I stopped by the Vietnam War Museum, <https://www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org/> on the way to the 2010 Denver reunion. We were just stopping by Mineral Wells to see one of our former residences at Fort Wolters (1964) and were surprised to see the start of this museum. Very humble beginnings but big plans. It has undergone a name change since 2010.

On that trip we visited five previous homes in this order-Columbus, GA (Dec 58) where we rented a house with **Curt and Sandy Stender** for jump school. Montgomery, AL (1969-70) where we lived while I was at the Air Command and Staff College. Our youngest daughter, Jennifer, was born at Maxwell AFB. Fort Wolters, TX (1964) for helicopter school TDY from Fort Bragg-took the family on

this TDY. A lot of homes had been removed and streets renamed so we were not sure we found our previous residence.

El Paso, TX (1962-63) for the Air Defense phase of the Artillery Officer Career Course. Second child, Rebecca at 2 1/2 years, fell on the concrete steps of the apartment complex when we were moving in. **Larry Hunt** may have witnessed that fall. A recent Google Earth check shows the large apartment complex has been removed.

San Marcos, TX (1959) for primary flight training. First child, Roger, Jr. was born there. The wife of my last CO at the Army flight test facility at Edwards AFB in 1980 had known our landlord. Small world.

Another museum not far away with big plans is the WASP Museum at Sweetwater, TX. <https://waspmuseum.org/> ( WASP stands for Women Airforce Service Pilots ).

The WASPs have a separate section in the local National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force [www.mightyeighth.org](http://www.mightyeighth.org). The museum is in Pooler, just west of Savannah and many of our classmates visited it during the 2006 Savannah reunion.

Several months ago Chuck Cabell gave a talk at the museum about his father's time in the Eighth Air Force including the time around the Normandy Invasion.

The city of Pooler is named after **Robert W. Pooler, class of 1815**. He was a classmate of **William Washington Gordon, 1815**, the first USMA graduate to be born in Georgia. Pooler was born in England so he was not recognized in the West Point Society of Savannah's 2002 bicentennial book that listed all graduates born in Georgia.

William Washington Gordon was recognized in 2002 as the "man of the year" for the Georgia Historical Society's Georgia Days held each February to recognize the 1733 arrival of immigrants to what is now Savannah.

We have also been at the National Museum of the Pacific War, <https://www.pacificwarmuseum.org/> at Fredericksburg, TX home of Admiral Nimitz. Almost ran out of gas going from there to the Alamo. Had to stop at a city or county maintenance shop and ask for a little gas.

How about the Tuskegee Airmen working toward a museum in Detroit? [https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee\\_airmen/index.html](https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee_airmen/index.html) We stopped by Tuskegee, AL one time but what they had there was closed. Have not heard why they are working

toward a museum in Detroit. In one reply to them, because they mentioned they were looking for a P-51, I mentioned that a local guy in Savannah has four or five P-51s. Don't know if they have tried contacting him.

In 1966 in Korea I flew Tuskegee Airman General Benjamin O. Davis on one trip in an L-20, Beaver.

I recognize this is not exactly class news, but many people are interested in museums.

## First Class Club

10/30/2020

**Jack Bradshaw** sent this to the entire class already, but I thought it should be memorialized here.

Click on the link below to read a letter from the Director of Cadet Activities, thanking our Class again for the FCC. Notice that there is now a metal plaque on the entrance to the Club to commemorate USMA 1958.

Just about every member of our Class helped to memorialize our Class in this way, but none of us did more to make it possible than **Tony Smith**. Let's remember him there in the Ghostly Assemblage.

Jack Bradshaw

[Letter to Class](#)

## War Memoir - Paul D. Vanture

10/9/2020

This is an essay concerning my experiences in combat in what was then South Vietnam. I do not include political situations, as I was not in any political procedures and was only one of many soldiers that endured the fighting. I have attempted to be as honest as I can and hope this comes through to any reader.



I left Portland on a very foggy day. I had to wait all day to get a commercial flight. A gentleman, who was an artilleryman in the Second World War II was kind enough to give me his seat. He was vice-president of the Frito-Lay company.

Finally the sky cleared enough to resume flights. I took a bus from San Francisco to Travis Air Force Base. Thirty hours later I was in Vietnam. Those of us on the aircraft arrived at Ben Hoa Air Base

north of Saigon. A decided contrast in the weather – very hot and humid.

The following day I was assigned as the S-3 (Operations) of the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery. I took a C-133 aircraft north to Peiku in the Central Highlands. Just south of Pleiku was the base camp of the headquarters, 4th Infantry Division. The 4th Infantry Division had been my first assignment in 1960 when it was located at Fort Lewis, Washington. I reported to the 4/42nd base camp there. Here the logistical portion of the battalion was located at the 4th Division headquarters overseen by the battalion executive officer. Turns out I had date of rank (as a major). I was, thus, the deputy commander.

After a brief orientation and check of my records, I took a helicopter to Ban Me Thuot, about 125 miles south of Pleiku. This was the base camp of the 2nd Brigade. The 4/42nd was in direct support of the Brigade. We belonged to Division Artillery and were not an integral part of the Brigade. That meant that the Division Artillery Commander could reassign the battalion depending upon the situation in the field. The battalion commander was an odd fellow given to fits of temper. The rest of the staff seemed strange to me, and I would learn later why I felt this way. [Read the full story.](#)