

## Memorial Article of George W. Page, USMA Class of 1955

Born on October 31<sup>st</sup> (*Halloween*), 1932 in Berkeley, California, the eldest child of George Ava & Judith (Fisher) Page. Baptized, as an adult, on 5 May 1991 in the 14th century font of St. Peter & St. Paul Parish (Anglican) Church, in Shorne, county Kent, England. This was the church of his forefathers back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and of his sixth great grandfather, a Gentleman, who immigrated to Connecticut circa 1662.

George lived with his parents on Castle Hill Road in Walnut Creek, CA, until about the 3rd grade (1940), then moved closer to Alamo, CA, until the 7th grade (1944). He appears, age 7, in the 1940 Federal Census records of his parents who lived on Walnut Creek Heights Road in Contra Costa County, California. He lived during the 8th grade (1944) in Sutter Creek, CA; before moving to Mexico. MO, for about a year. There his father worked for the A.P. Green Firebrick Co. who sent the family to Buenos Aires, Argentina. His mother moved the family to Oregon City, Oregon, where he finished the 9th grade (1947). In 1947 the family sailed on the Grace Line's *Santa Maria* to Valpariso, Chile, and from there took the train across the Andes to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the family lived for three years during the Peron era. George graduated from the American High School, Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 1950. He then attended Bullis Preparatory School in Silver Spring, MD to prepare for the service academy entrance exams. He received competitive Congressional appointments to, and passed the exams for, both the U.S. Naval Academy and West Point (Rep. Chairman Clarence Cannon (D-MO)). He chose West Point on the advice of two U.S. Army Colonels in Argentina: Bruce Medaris and Louis V. Hightower, both of whom went on to become Major Generals.

While at West Point, George he was assigned to Company C-1 and excelled in most academics. He was fortunate to play dumb long enough to be permitted to study Spanish as an elective. He also participated in Plebe soccer until he injured his knee when kicking a ball also being kicked by classmate Scotty Adams. Years later coach Joe Palone commented that it was fortunate that it was George who was injured instead of his star player, Scotty Adams. During Firstie Year he coached the company Waterpolo Team that won the Brigade Championship. He graduated 104 out of class of 470 in the Class of 1955 at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY-3 June 1955. Commissioned 2nd Lt. in Regular Army's Corps of Engineers-3 June 1955 and chose Army Aviation as an option.

He and Patricia Lee Cray were married in a military wedding in her home town of Atchison, KS, on 11 June 1955. His ushers were classmates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lts. John F. Sloan, Jack Greggs, Vane Quentin "Quent" Bates, and James Walter "Walt" Staudaher. They drove their new Olds Super 88 Convertible to a honeymoon in Banff, Alberta, Canada, where George impressed his bride by scoring a hole in one on the golf course. He and Patty had four sons [George Wilson Page, Jr. (1956), Stephen Mitchell Page (1957), Michael Scott Page (1959), and William Kendall Page (1963)]. Each of their sons are married and have each have three children, all of whom have attended college. Steve married (3) Tanmy Craven, the daughter of classmate Tom & Ann Craven

He attended U.S.A.F. Primary Flight school at Gary AFB in San Marcos, TX, before graduating as an Army Aviator with Class 56-2 at Ft. Rucker, AL. He later attended helicopter (H-13 & H-19) flight school at Ft. Rucker while on TDY from the 116<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group at Ft. Lewis, WA..

Grad. Univ. Calif. Berkeley with a M.S. Civil (Coastal) Engineering-1961.

Grad. U.S. Army Engineer's Advanced Course and Nuclear Weapons Employment Officer Course- 1962 and in that year resigned from Army Aviation to devote his career to the Corps of Engineers,

Attended a summer course in Estuary and Coastline Hydrodynamics at MIT.

Grad. Command General Staff College, Ft Leavenworth, KS-1965.

Grad. Military Advisor & Training (MATA) Course and Psychological Operations Officer Course at Ft. Bragg, NC - 1965.

Grad. British Army Staff College, Camberley, England-1967.

Grad. U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA.-1975.

Retired from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a Regular Army Colonel on 1 July 1977 with two years in grade. Tours of duty included: Ft. Lewis, WA, as the Assistant S-3 with the 116th Engineer Group; Libya North Africa (Mapping in the Libyan desert) including the Recon Platoon Leader and CO of the 542nd Engineer Company(Topo) (1958/9); After resigning from Army Aviation in 1962, the Los Angeles Engineer District as Project Engineer for: The design and construction of the offshore breakwater at Marina del Rey, Venice, CA-1964; Construction of Flood Control structures in Beverly Hills; Baldwin Hills Dam Clean-up; Real Estate Acquisition in Arizona and California for the four division *Desert Strike Training Exercise* conducted by U.S. Strike Command; and Construction of Titan II missile silos while TDY in Tucson, Arizona). He was nominated in 1964 for the Junior chamber of Commerce award— *Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Year* and received a below the zone promotion to Major; Psychological/Civic Action advisor to the Vietnamese IV Corps Commander in South Vietnam; MACV Engineer Officer-in-charge of dredging of harbors and base facilities in Vietnam-1966/7, manager of 23 in country dredges, and Coordinator of Construction-II Corps (South); Engineer Staff Officer in the Engineer Division of Central Army Group (NATO), Germany (1967-8); Battalion Commander 10th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry division, Kitzingen, Germany-1969-70; Director, Department of Combat Engineering/Department of Applied Engineering, U.S. Army Engineer School, Ft. Belvoir, VA.-1970-72; Staff Officer with the Policy Division in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Security Assistance)-1972-74; and, Deputy Division Engineer. Mideast Div., Corps of Engineers in Livorno, Italy and later at Mt. Weather, Berryville, VA, involved with design and construction of a multi-billion dollar program funded by and for the government of Saudi Arabia-1975-7.

Military Decorations include: Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; Air Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters; Joint Service Commendation Medal; and Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. In 1964 was nominated to be the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce's *Most Outstanding Man of the Year Award*, but lost to an astronaut

Upon retirement, he and his wife purchased a 47 foot Wellington ketch in which they cruised a few years in the Bahamas, Virgin Islands and West Indies. They then moved to Ft. Lauderdale to be with their youngest son who attended Pine Crest private school there. From 1980 lived with his wife and their Shelties on the Maryland bank of the Potomac River across the river from Mt. Vernon and Fort Belvoir in Bryans Road. They moved in 2014 to an island on Lake Murray near Lexington, SC.

Genealogy was a full time avocation after retirement. Member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He authored and published 1992 *"The Descendants of Robart Page of the King's House - The Probable English Origins, Ancestors, and Relatives of George Page of Branford, Connecticut and Thomas Page of Saco in the Province of Maine"*; *"Ancestors and Descendants of Peter Reinhoehl - (1831-1913)"*; and, in 1998, *Descendants of George Page, Gent. and Sarah Linsley of Branford, Connecticut*. He also managed the Y-DNA Surname Projects for FTDNA.COM for the Page, Jackman, Nixon, Cray/Crays, and McCray Surnames.

His wife and he have been active in breeding and showing Shetland Sheepdogs (*Shelties*) since 1972 with the kennel name of *Cataway Shelties*. They have been members of the American Shetland Sheepdog Association (ASSA) since 1983. Together they have bred over 85 *Sheltie* AKC Champions including two Best-in-Show winners; a Century Club award winner, and dual champions. George served for several years as the Corresponding Secretary and Director-At-Large of ASSA and been active in their local ASSA Member Club where he served as president and treasurer for a number of years.

They have traveled extensively, visiting over 120 countries, and George lived in eight.