

# **ARKANSAS MILITARY JOURNAL**

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of Arkansas  
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The Arkansas Military Journal is an unofficial publication of the Arkansas National Guard Historical Foundation. The purpose of the journal is to aid in the preservation of Arkansas military history. Comments and materials for publication are invited. Correspondence should be addressed to: The Adjutant General, CS-HS, P. O. Box 2301, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-2200.

# National Guard Association of Arkansas

## *Past Presidents*

Compiled and Edited  
by *Major Larry W. Curtis*  
Personnel Officer  
39th Infantry Brigade

*March 14, 1997*

## Past Presidents

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## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL NEIL NORMAN SNYDER**

Lieutenant Colonel Neil Norman Snyder was born at Jonesboro, Arkansas on September 1, 1889. He attended Jonesboro Grammar School 1895-1902, Jonesboro Training School 1902-1904, Sloan Hendrix Academy at Imboden, Arkansas 1904-1905, and Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas 1905-1908.

Lieutenant Colonel Snyder's military education included the 39th Infantry Division Machine Gun Staff Course 1917-1918, 2nd Corps Machine Gun Course 1918, Special Course for National Guard and Reserve Officers, The Infantry School, Camp Benning, Georgia 1921-1922 and Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, March 15-June 16, 1924.

Lieutenant Colonel Snyder began his military career on April 15, 1912 by enlisting in Company G, 1st Arkansas Infantry. He served as an enlisted man until August 12, 1912 and was promoted to Sergeant. On August 13, 1912 he was appointed Second Lieutenant, 1st Arkansas Infantry. On July 16, 1916 he was promoted to First Lieutenant. On March 13, 1917 he was promoted to Captain, serving with the 1st Arkansas of 153rd Infantry, 108th Infantry and 5th Arkansas of 153rd Infantry. On July 1, 1922 he was promoted to Major with 153rd Infantry. And on November 28, 1925 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, 153rd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Snyder served as Assistant United States Mustering Officer in connection with the muster in of the Mississippi National Guard for World War I. He was a member of the 1923 Arkansas National Guard Rifle Team and team Captain of the 1924 Arkansas National Guard Rifle Team at Camp Perry, Ohio. Lieutenant Colonel Snyder served as the first President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1927-1928. His service with the Arkansas National Guard continued until he tendered his resignation on November 21, 1940.

## **BRIGADIER GENERAL HEBER LOWREY MCALISTER**

Brigadier General Heber Lowrey McAlister was born in Pontiac, Mississippi on September 18, 1882. He graduated from Mississippi College in 1906 with a Bachelor of Science degree and later received his Master of Arts degree.

Brigadier General McAlister's military career began on June 1, 1911 when he was appointed as Second Lieutenant, Infantry, Arkansas National Guard. He served in both World Wars I and II. In World War I he served in France as a Battalion Commander of Infantry and in Word War II he commanded the 153rd Infantry which was stationed in the United States, Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. After World War I he assisted in reorganizing the Arkansas National Guard, appointed Colonel, Infantry and assigned to command the 153rd Infantry June 23, 1922. He was appointed Adjutant General of Arkansas November 22, 1922 and promoted to Brigadier General February 16, 1924. He resigned as Adjutant General and transferred to the National Guard Reserve June 29, 1925. On May 11, 1928 he was appointed Colonel, Infantry and assigned to command 153rd Infantry and remained in this assignment until December 23, 1940 when he was inducted together with his regiment into Federal Service. After World War II he was again appointed Brigadier General, The Adjutant General of Arkansas January 9, 1945, serving in this capacity until January 14, 1949, when he accepted appointment as Assistant Adjutant General, retiring January 15, 1951.

Brigadier General McAlister received many commendations and citations throughout his military career including the Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the Army Commendation Ribbon.

A listing of Brigadier General McAlister's assignments are as follows: appointed Second Lieutenant, Infantry, June 1, 1911 and assigned to Regimental Staff, 1st Arkansas Regiment, November 17, 1911. Appointed Captain and assigned to command Company C, 1st Arkansas Infantry serving in this capacity until June 1915 when he was transferred to the Regimental Staff and assigned as Inspector Small Arms Practice where he served until July 6, 1916. On July 20, 1916 he was transferred from the Reserve and assigned to State Staff, serving until July 25, 1917 when he was promoted to Major, Infantry, and assigned to command First Battalion, Third Arkansas Infantry, serving until August 5, 1917 when he was drafted into Federal Service with the Third Arkansas Infantry which was redesignated 154th Infantry and assigned to the 39th Division. He commanded the 1st Battalion of the 154th Infantry, 152nd Infantry and 164th Infantry until September 26, 1919, when he was mustered out of Federal Service. He served overseas June 12, 1918 to February 26, 1919. He graduated from the Field Officers School August, 1918 at Langres, France. On November 18, 1919 he transferred to Inspector General's Department and assigned to active list State Staff, Arkansas National Guard. On May 3, 1921 he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry and assigned as Executive Officer, 5th Arkansas Infantry, June 23, 1922, he was appointed Colonel, Infantry and assigned to command the 153rd Infantry which was the 5th Arkansas until it was redesignated October 25, 1921. On December 1, 1922 he was assigned as Adjutant General and on February 16, 1924 was promoted to Brigadier General serving as the Adjutant General until June 29, 1925. Brigadier General McAlister served as the second President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1928-1930.

## **BRIGADIER GENERAL ELGAN CLAYTON ROBERTSON**

Brigadier General Elgan Clayton Robertson was born on November 9, 1889 at Ada, Arkansas. He attended schools at Magazine, Arkansas, Ouachita Academy and Springfield College, Springfield, Missouri. He studied law and was admitted to practice in the courts of Arkansas.

Brigadier General Robertson served in World War I, entering the Armed Forces August 5, 1917. He entered World War II on January 6, 1941 as Commanding Officer of the 206th Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Arkansas National Guard. He attended anti-aircraft courses in gunnery and tactics. After serving over two years attached to 106th Coast Artillery Regiment and 62nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade, he departed February 28, 1942 for Dutch Harbor, Aleutian Islands where he was in command of the 206th Anti-Aircraft Regiment during two battles at Dutch Harbor. Brigadier General Robertson qualified as expert rifleman and in gunnery, radar, Automatic Weapons and tactics. He also served as Colonel in Command of the 62nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade. In addition to other decorations, he was awarded one Battle Star and the Legion of Merit Award. He received an honorable discharge at Hot Springs, Arkansas, November 30, 1944 and returned to Marianna, Arkansas where he lived with his wife. He was subsequently promoted to Brigadier General, Arkansas National Guard.

A chronological listing of Brigadier General Robertson's promotions and assignments are as follows: Enlisted in Company F, 2nd Arkansas Infantry and promoted to Sergeant, March 1, 1905 to March 1, 1908. Captain, 2nd Arkansas Infantry, January 26, 1915 to August 5, 1917. Captain, 142nd Field Artillery, August 5, 1917 to May 5, 1919. Major, 142nd Field Artillery, May 5, 1919 to August 25, 1919. Major, 153rd Infantry August 25, 1919 to July 1, 1922. Lieutenant Colonel, 153rd Infantry, July 1, 1922 to February 25, 1924. Colonel, 206th Coast Artillery, February 25, 1924 to January 28, 1947. Brigadier General, Commander, 39th Division Artillery, January 28, 1947 to December 1, 1949.

Brigadier General Robertson served as the third President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1930-1932.



## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL ELLIS MACK FAGAN, JR.**

Lieutenant Colonel Ellis Mack Fagan, Jr. was born March 25, 1903 at Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Little Rock High School.

Lieutenant Colonel Fagan's statement of service is as follows: Enlisted in the Arkansas National Guard as a Private, Battery H, 206th Coastal Artillery June 24, 1921 to June 25, 1923, Little Rock, Arkansas. Second Enlistment as a Private, 154th Observation Squadron October 7, 1925 to 2 August 1929, Little Rock, Arkansas. Appointed Second Lieutenant, Air Corps, Arkansas National Guard August 3, 1929 to June 5, 1930. Promoted to First Lieutenant, Air Corps, June 6, 1930 to January 11, 1938. Promoted to Captain, Air Corps, January 12, 1938. Inducted to Federal Service as Captain, 154th Observation Squadron, September 16, 1940. Lieutenant Colonel Fagan's World War II duty included: Captain, Pilot, 154th Observation Squadron Fort Sill, Oklahoma, September 16, 1940 to August 24, 1941. Honorably discharged as Captain, August 25, 1941. Promoted to Major January 1943 to June 23, 1943. Served in the Alaska Division ATC AAF, Headquarters Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, January 25, 1943 to November 1, 1944. Appointed Lieutenant Colonel, June 1944 to March 1945. Served at Air Base Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada, April 1944 to October 1944. Served with 20th Ferry Group ATC AAF, Nashville, Tennessee, November 1944 to March 28, 1945.

Awards and Decorations included: American Theater, American Defense, Asiatic Pacific and three overseas bars.

Appointed Lieutenant Colonel, Commander Headquarters 118th Air Base Group, Air Force, Arkansas Air National Guard, June 24, 1953. Resigned July 30, 1954.

Lieutenant Colonel Fagan's civilian occupations included: Electrical Engineer, Airplane Pilot, Embalmer and Funeral Director. He resided with his wife, Alta M. Fagan at 45 Edgehill Road, Little Rock, Arkansas. He served as the fourth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1932-33.



## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL BLAKE SCOTT**

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Blake Scott was born on March 26, 1898 at Prescott, Arkansas. He graduated from Prescott High School in 1914 and attended the University of Arkansas studying Civil Engineering from 1914 to 1916.

Lieutenant Colonel Scott began his military career commissioned First Lieutenant, Company F, 1st Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, June 19, 1916. He was called to active duty the same date for service on the Mexican Border. Promoted to Captain, Infantry, January 24, 1917. Mustered out of Federal Service February 23, 1917. Mustered into Federal Service April 1, 1917 for World War I. Mustered out March 3, 1919. Appointed Captain, Infantry, February 21, 1921 and reorganized Company C, 5th Infantry, Arkansas National Guard at Prescott, Arkansas. Appointed Captain, Quartermaster Corps and assigned as Assistant Adjutant General of Arkansas, November 24, 1922. Appointed Major, Adjutant General's Department, November 10, 1923. Resigned as Assistant Adjutant General April 28, 1927. Appointed Major, Field Artillery, July 3, 1931 and organized and commanded First Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery. Appointed Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery and assigned as Executive Officer, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas National Guard, September 23, 1940. Inducted into Federal Service January 6, 1941 for World War II.

Lieutenant Colonel Scott's World War II Service included: Executive Officer, 142nd Field Artillery October 25, 1941 to September 27, 1942. Transferred to Inspector General's Department, September 28, 1942. IGD Headquarters, VIII Corps and Headquarters 8th Service Corps, September 28, 1942 to November 21, 1942. Enroute Foreign Service, November 22, 1942 to January 5, 1943. IG force 9156 and III Island Command January 6, 1943 to November 24, 1944. IG Sub-base Guadalcanal Island Command, November 25, 1944 to January 10, 1945. Served in the South Pacific, Southwest Pacific and Far East Theaters. Transferred to Second Army and assigned as Assistant Inspector General, July 9, 1945, Memphis, Tennessee. Retired as Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery, April 30, 1950.

Lieutenant Colonel Scott's awards and decorations included: American Defense, Asiatic Pacific and Philippine Liberation. Lieutenant Colonel Scott served as the fifth President National Guard Association of Arkansas 1933-34.

## COLONEL HOWELL BREWER

Colonel Howell Brewer was born in El Paso, Arkansas on April 25, 1887. He graduated from Lonoke High School in 1903. He attended Hendrix College and graduated from the University of Arkansas, College of Physicians and Surgeons with the Doctor of Medicine Degree, May 14, 1915.

Colonel Howell Brewer began his military career as a First Lieutenant, Medical Corps, November 15, 1915 and served on the Punitive Expedition, Mexican Border, July 16, 1916 to February 4, 1917. He was appointed Captain, Cavalry, and authorized to organize Company L, 3rd Arkansas Infantry from 8 April to August 4, 1917. He was called to active Federal Service during World War I as a Captain, Infantry on August 5, 1917 to October 14, 1919. He served with the American Expeditionary Forces from August 3, 1918 to January 1, 1919. On September 15, 1922 he was appointed Major, Medical Corps and Commanding Officer, 145th Medical Regiment, Hospital Company No. 216 (motorized), Hot Springs National Park, Hot Springs, Arkansas. By September 6, 1934, Major Brewer had become the Commander, Medical Department Detachment, 153rd Infantry, Camp Joseph T. Robinson. On December 20, 1940 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Corps and on December 23, 1940 was ordered to Active Federal Service. During World War II he served as Regimental Surgeon, 153rd Infantry, December 23, 1940 to January 11, 1942. Surgeon, Camp Murray, Washington August 12, 1941 to December 22, 1942. Post Surgeon, Fort Glen, Alaska, December 15, 1941 to November 13, 1943. Medical Inspector, Arkansas National Guard Hospital, March 11, 1944 to June 12, 1944. Post Surgeon, Station Hospital, Fort Story, Virginia, June 14, 1944 to June 30, 1945.

Colonel Brewer received the following awards and citations: Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, American Defense Medal, American Theatre Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Medal with Bronze Star, Victory Medal World War II and the Combat Medical Badge. The following is an excerpt from the *Sentinel Record*, Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas: *"Colonel Howell Brewer was awarded the purple heart for wounds received during a Japanese bombing and strafing attack on Umnak Island, Alaska. Colonel Brewer was struck twice in the right arm by shell fragments June 3, 1942 when planes from a Japanese carrier force swooped down on Fort Glenn on Umnak Island, Alaska, to bomb and strafe the airstrip and surrounding area. This attack preceded the Japanese landings at Kiska and Attu which they held until dislodged by American troops in 1943. A veteran of the First World War, Colonel Brewer was called to active duty again in December, 1940. On December 15, 1941 he was assigned to Fort Glenn. He served more than two years in the Aleutians on Umnak Island where was the principal medical officer and for a while the commanding officer of the entire detachment. He was promoted to the full rank of Colonel on February 16, 1943. Colonel Brewer's military record includes service in all the components of the United States Army: the regular Army, the Organized Reserve, the National Guard, and the Army of the United States. In both World Wars he spent time overseas. In World War I he commanded a machine gun company which saw action in France and in World War II he built and organized the 186th Station hospital at Fort Glenn, Alaska. The Legion of Merit was awarded to Colonel Brewer for extraordinary initiative and resourcefulness in landing and establishment of camps at Chernofski Bay and Umnak Island."*

Colonel Brewer was married to the former Lillian Letitia Farris of Conway and they resided at 311 Morrison Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas. They had three daughters Patricia, Mrs. Coleman Stephens and Betty Brewer. He retired from the Arkansas Army National Guard on September 6, 1951. Colonel Brewer was the sixth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas.

## COLONEL HARRY WILBUR SMITH

Colonel Harry Wilbur Smith was born in Buffalo, New York on December 8, 1892. He attended Wilkes Bow, Pennsylvania Public Schools 1900-1904, Norfolk, Virginia Public Schools 1904-1907, and Old Point Military Academy 1907-1909.

Colonel Smith began his military career on June 22, 1916 enlisting as a Private, Company E, 1st Arkansas Infantry, Fort Roots, Arkansas. On August 18, 1916 he was promoted to Sergeant serving as Regimental Supply Sergeant, 1st Arkansas Infantry. On February 8, 1917 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Supply Company, 1st Arkansas Infantry. On September 28, 1917 he was promoted to First Lieutenant, 153rd Infantry at Camp Pike, Arkansas. During World War I he served with the American Expeditionary Forces in France from August 6, 1918 to June 28, 1919 participating in the Meuse-Argonne offensive as an Aerial Observer for 2nd Corps. On June 24, 1921 he was promoted to Captain, 206th Coast Artillery Corps. On December 10, 1923 he was appointed Commanding Officer of Battery H, 206th Coast Artillery, Harrison, Arkansas. The Regimental Headquarters was located at Marianna commanded by Colonel Elgan C. Robertson. On July 7, 1931 he was promoted to Major, Coast Artillery Corps, and assigned to command First Battalion 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft). He served as a Major until December 31, 1939.

Colonel Smith received the Distinguished Service Medal of the State of Arkansas when as a Captain on May 4, 1927 while serving as the Battery Commander, Battery H, 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft), Arkansas National Guard, he dispersed a mob which had rioted and burned a Negro man at Ninth and Broadway Streets in the City of Little Rock. By the efficient and forceful manner in which he handled this dangerous and shameful situation, he brought great credit upon himself and upon the Arkansas National Guard and avoided embarrassment to the State of Arkansas, and by timely action certainly prevented further loss of life.

Colonel Smith's military education included the 39th Division Automatic Rifle School, Oct-Nov 1917; 39th Division Supply and Services School at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana Nov-Dec 1917; 39th Division Bayonet School Dec 1917-Jan 1918; 2nd Corps Tactical School (France) November-December 1918; Coast Artillery School, 1924 and Command and General Staff Course.

Colonel Smith was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel and retired from military service. He resided with his wife, Mrs. Blanche Smith at 4106 W. 14th Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. He served as the seventh President National Guard Association of Arkansas 1935-36.

## **FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT MONROE CRISP**

First Lieutenant Robert Monroe Crisp was born on November 22, 1916 at Fort Smith, Arkansas. He graduated from high school in Fort Smith.

Robert Monroe Crisp was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Army Air Corps on March 5, 1944. He served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The first record available is dated October 12, 1944 from Headquarters, Army Air Corps, Washington, D.C. requiring Second Lieutenant Crisp, holding an aeronautical rating, to participate in regular and frequent aerial flights. He served as an Engine Pilot from March 5, 1944 to February 16, 1946. He transferred to Air Force Reserve, Headquarters, 14th Air Force, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia and was promoted to First Lieutenant, February 17, 1946. First Lieutenant Crisp may have performed duty with 437th Field Artillery Battalion circa 1950. An order dated 2 June 1950 as pertains to Crisp, Robert M. 0927581, 1st Lt., Field Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 437th Field Artillery Battalion was revoked. He transferred to the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Arkansas Air National Guard on December 15, 1952 as First Lieutenant serving as a Reconnaissance Pilot and was separated from the National Guard on December 7, 1954.

First Lieutenant Crisp was appointed Airport Manager, City of Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1948. He resided at 1410 N. 36th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas with his wife, Geraldine L. Crisp. He served as the eighth President National Guard Association of Arkansas 1936-37.

## **BRIGADIER GENERAL EBENEZER L. COMPERE**

Brigadier General Ebenezer L. Compere was born at Witcherville, Sebastian County, Arkansas on February 26, 1880. He was educated in public schools of Arkansas and received his college education at Ouachita College at Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where he graduated in June, 1906 with the Bachelor of Arts Degree. He studied law and graduated from the Law Department, University of Arkansas, June, 1911.

Brigadier General Compere received military training under Regular Army Officers while in Ouachita College holding the rank of Cadet Major when he graduated in 1906. He enlisted in Company F, 2nd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, October 4, 1904. Appointed First Lieutenant and assigned to Company F, 2nd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, September 1, 1905. Promoted to Captain and assigned Company F, 2nd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard on March 4, 1907. Appointed Assistant Adjutant General of Arkansas with rank of Major, July 7, 1909. Appointed regimental adjutant, 2nd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, January 1, 1912. Promoted to Major of Infantry and assigned 2nd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, April 19, 1912. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned as Executive Officer, 2nd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, March 16, 1917. Served under call of the President for service on the Mexican Border from June 19, 1916 to February 22, 1917. Promoted to Colonel and assigned to 3rd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, June 26, 1917. Served as Commander, 154th Infantry, 39th Division, U.S.A. (formerly 3rd Arkansas Infantry) composed of troops from Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi both in the United States and with the American Expeditionary Forces from August 5, 1917 to February 5, 1919 when he was mustered out of Federal Service. On January 30, 1922 he accepted a commission as Colonel, Infantry, Officer Reserve Corps, holding this commission until January 23, 1927. On April 29, 1929, he was appointed Brigadier General, Adjutant Corps and served as the Adjutant General of Arkansas from 1929 to 1937 and again from 1941 to 1945.

Brigadier General Compere served as the ninth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1937-38.

## **MAJOR BASIL EDWIN NEWTON**

Major Basil Edwin Newton was born on July 1, 1896 at Sterling, Nebraska. He attended Hope High School in Hope, Arkansas from September 11, 1911 and graduated on May 30, 1914.

Major Newton began his military career on June 8, 1914 enlisting as a Private in the 23rd U.S. Infantry serving with the 23rd until June 1, 1917. From June 1, 1917 to June 1, 1918 he served with the 49th U.S. Infantry as a Sergeant. On June 1, 1918 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Infantry serving in this capacity until October 8, 1918. On October 8, 1918 he was promoted to First Lieutenant. On June 14, 1920 First Lieutenant Newton joined the Arkansas National Guard, receiving his federal recognition as a First Lieutenant, Infantry, Arkansas National Guard on that date and served as such until December 30, 1920. During June of 1920, First Lieutenant Newton contacted Joe S. Harris, The Adjutant General, expressing an interest in forming a Company of the 5th Arkansas Infantry in Hope. On December 30, 1920 he was promoted to Captain, serving with the Arkansas National Guard as Commander Company A, 153rd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, Hope, Arkansas. On November 26, 1923 he was promoted to Major, Infantry, Arkansas National Guard and assigned to command First Battalion, 153rd Infantry. During his service in the 1930's with the 153rd Infantry, First Battalion was headquartered in Little Rock and the 153rd Regimental Headquarters was located in Conway.

Major Newton's military education included: Officer's Training School, Fort Dix, New Jersey January 5, 1918 to April 19, 1918; School of Bayonet, Camp Gordon, Georgia, June 1, 1918 to July 1, 1918 and Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, November 1, 1922 to January 31, 1923. He completed the Field Officers Course, Fort Benning, Georgia January 12 to February 14, 1931. Topics covered at the Field Officers course included: Applied Psychology, Army of the United States, Animal Management and Transportation, Chemical Warfare Service, Command and Staff, Instructional Methods, Medical Service, Military History, Musketry, Organization, Signal Communication, Supply Tactics, Topography, Training and Weapons.

Major Newton's civilian occupation was bookkeeper and then manager for the Southern Grain and Produce Company, Hope, Arkansas. He resided with his wife at 700 South Main Street, Hope, Arkansas. During the 1930's they moved to Little Rock, living at 5016 Woodlawn and 4516 Kenyon. They had two children. Major Newton served as the tenth President National Guard Association of Arkansas 1938-39. Major Newton died on June 21, 1940 after twenty-six years of service to his country.

## **COLONEL JOHN GEORGE BUERKLE**

Colonel John George Buerkle was born on August 30, 1892 at Stuttgart, Arkansas. He graduated from high school at Fayetteville, Arkansas, University of Arkansas Preparatory School, 1910 and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1914.

Colonel Buerkle began his military career enlisting into Federal Active Duty during World War I as a Private, Signal Corps, serving with Company C, 314th Field Signal Battalion, July 21, 1917 to December 7, 1917. He was promoted to Sergeant, Signal Corps on December 8, 1917 serving to April 18, 1918. On April 19, 1918 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps serving with the 305th Signal Battalion. Colonel Buerkle's World War I duty included a tour with the American Expeditionary Forces in France from May 26, 1918 to June 20, 1919. On May 13, 1919 he was promoted to First Lieutenant, Signal Corps serving until July 10, 1919 when he was released from Active Duty.

On October 24, 1923, Colonel Buerkle joined the Arkansas National Guard receiving his commission as a Captain, Coast Artillery Corps serving with Battery D, 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft), Russellville, Arkansas. He was appointed Commander, Battery D in 1927 and served as a Captain until September 20, 1940. On September 21, 1940 he was promoted to Major, Coast Artillery Corps and on January 31, 1941 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Coast Artillery Corps. On October 26, 1947 he was promoted to Colonel serving as Colonel until his retirement.

Colonel Buerkle's World War II service included the following duty assignments: Inducted to Federal Service on January 6, 1941 with the 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) and was stationed at Camp Murray, Washington until February 26, 1942. From March 8, 1942 to June 12, 1943 he was stationed with the 206th Coast Artillery at Dutch Harbor, Alaska and was present when the Japanese attacked Dutch Harbor on June 3 & 4, 1942. Stationed with the Anti-Aircraft Artillery School August 12, 1943 to September 30, 1943. Stationed with the Anti-Aircraft Regional Training Command, Camp Wallace, Texas, October 22, 1942 to December 30, 1943. Stationed with the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Command, Fort Bliss, Texas from January 1, 1944 to February 18, 1944.

Colonel Buerkle's military education included: 3rd ROTC Signal Corps Instruction from January 1, 1918 to April 20, 1918 at Lions Springs, Texas; First Field Officer School, Fort Monroe, Virginia November 6, 1941 to December 12, 1941; Staff Officers School, Camp Davis, North Carolina August 12, 1943 to September 30, 1943 and AAFSAT School, Orlando, Florida, October 2, 1943 to October 12, 1943.

Colonel Buerkle's awards and decorations included the Army Commendation Medal, American Defense Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with one star and World War II Victory Medal.

Colonel Buerkle was married to Grace Louise Buerkle and they had one daughter, Julia Ann Buerkle. They resided at 1807 West Main Street, Russellville, Arkansas. He served as the eleventh President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1939-1940. He retired from military service on December 29, 1949.



## **MAJOR MORT S. COX**

Major Mort S. Cox born October 14, 1917, North Little Rock, Arkansas. Attended public schools at Pulaski Heights Elementary and Junior High and graduated from Little Rock High School in 1932. Attended Henderson State University at Arkadelphia and American University, Washington, D.C. Graduated Chamber of Commerce Institute at University of Houston and Academy for Organization Management, Michigan State University.

Major Cox began his military service with enlistment in Battery H, 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft), Arkansas National Guard, Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1938. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, Arkansas National Guard and promoted to Major September 1, 1950.

Inducted into Federal Service, Army of the United States, January 6, 1941. Continued on active duty through World War II, primarily as Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) Unit Commander with service as Brigade S-3. Outside U.S.A. service in Alaska and European Theaters of Operation. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Germany during Rhineland Campaign. Graduate of Officers Advanced AAA School, Camp Davis, N.C; Officer Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Advanced School, Fort Sill. Instructor, OPTB and Automatic Weapons School, AAATC, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Reorganized Arkansas National Guard Unit in Hot Springs following World War II as Unit Commander and Battalion S-3. Instrumental in reactivation of National Guard Association of Arkansas and served as twelfth President 1952-53.

Following four years (1933-37) in the Civilian Conservation Corps at Ouachita Forest Supervisors office, employed at U.S. Public Health Service VD Treatment Centers at Hot Springs and St. Louis; as Administrative Assistant at National Cancer Institute and Administrative Officer, National Institute of Dental Research, Bethesda, Maryland.

Returned to Hot Springs 1953 to become Manager of Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. In 1964 named Vice President, Arkansas Bank and Trust Company. Retired 1979. Director, Hot Springs Arts Center 1979-1985. Active in many local, state and national civic and business organizations with positions of leadership responsibility. Holder of numerous awards and citations for civic accomplishments.

Active in United Methodist Church at local, District and Conference levels. Taught Sunday School over 40 years. Served as Coordinator of Adult Ministries and as Chairman, Board of Education of Little Rock Conference, in addition to local responsibilities.

Married (1940) to Freda Cecil Springstead of North Little Rock. Three daughters: Carolyn Mashburn, Liz Stathakis and Claudia Van Deusen.

## **MAJOR GENERAL LUCIEN ABRAHAM**

Major General Lucien Abraham's military career began when he was a student at Ouachita College, as a member of the ROTC. Upon his graduation he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry, Reserve Corps, April 4, 1923. He was appointed First Lieutenant and assigned to the Arkansas National Guard. On June 2, 1928 he was promoted to Captain and assigned to command Company "L", 153rd Infantry, Arkansas National Guard. He served in most of the major disasters in the State of Arkansas from the time he was commissioned in the Guard until he was inducted into Federal Service December 23, 1940. He was promoted to Major, August 20, 1942; Lieutenant Colonel August 21, 1943; and Colonel July 30, 1946. During his term of Federal Service he served in the Aleutian Islands and Alaska and at the time he was separated from service in World War II, which was January 21, 1947, he was serving with the 2nd Army in Fort Meade, Maryland. Upon the reorganization of the Arkansas National Guard in 1947, Colonel Abraham was assigned as the Commanding Officer of the 153d Infantry, Arkansas National Guard, serving in this capacity up until January 13, 1952., when he was appointed Brigadier General, the Adjutant General of Arkansas. On May 28, 1953, he was promoted to Major General, Adjutant General of Arkansas. General Abraham resigned as Adjutant General, January 10, 1955, and was reappointed Colonel, Infantry and assigned to State Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas National Guard where he was serving at the time of his death. On March 21, 1960, Colonel Abraham was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of the State of Arkansas for Meritorious and distinguished service. He was awarded many other decorations during his military service.

Major General Abraham served as the thirteenth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1953-54. The death of Colonel Lucien Abraham, State Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas National Guard, occurred at Little Rock, Arkansas, Saturday, June 11, 1960, as the result of natural causes.

## **MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES H. WILSON**

Major General Charles H. Wilson was born November 7, 1911 at Turner, Kansas. His family moved to North Little Rock, Arkansas shortly before his first year of school. He graduated from North Little Rock High School in 1911.

Major General Wilson's military education includes completion of Ordnance Basic Course, Ordnance Advanced Course and Command and General Staff College.

Major General Wilson began his military career on August 8, 1934, by enlisting in the 154th Observation Squadron, Arkansas National Guard. He was discharged three years later with the grade of Private First Class. With the outbreak of World War II, General Wilson was given a direct commission as a First Lieutenant, Ordnance Department, United States Army. He had several Continental United States (CONUS) based assignments and commands prior to deploying to the Pacific Theater where he served as Commander of the 215th Ordnance Battalion during the Okinawan Campaign. Major General Wilson was separated from active federal service on April 22, 1946, with the rank of Major.

Major General Wilson rejoined the Arkansas National Guard on February 7, 1947, as Division Ordnance Maintenance Officer, 39th Infantry Division. He served in various positions from Battalion Commander, 739th Ordnance Battalion to Commander of the 39th Division Support Command, retiring from the Arkansas National Guard on December 6, 1966 with the rank of Colonel.

General Wilson was promoted to Major General by Governor Winthrop Rockefeller. He served as Adjutant General from January 1967 to November 1971.

During his membership in the Arkansas National Guard he served as fourteenth President of the Arkansas National Guard Association from 1954 to 1955.

Major General Wilson's awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit, World War II Victory Medal, American Theater Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal.

In his civilian career, Major General Wilson was the owner and operator of an automobile repair service and service manager of several leading automobile agencies in the Little Rock area.

General Wilson resides in Jacksonville with his wife, the former Eloise Sears. They have two children and four grandchildren.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL HENRY EDWARD HUDSON**

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Edward Hudson was born on February 4, 1905 at Stamps, Arkansas. He graduated from Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas with the Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1928 and from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana with the Master of Arts Degree in 1933.

Lieutenant Colonel Hudson began his military career when he enlisted in the Coast Artillery, Arkansas National Guard as Private on July 27, 1935. He was promoted to Sergeant and served as such until June 28, 1940. On June 29, 1940 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Coast Artillery Corps, Arkansas National Guard and on May 10, 1943 he was promoted to Captain. Captain Hudson was called to active duty on June 26, 1943. From September 21, 1943 to November 19, 1945 he served in four campaigns in the European Theater of Operations including: Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Po Valley and North Appenines. He served as Civil Affairs Officer and Refugee Officer during his tour of duty in Europe. On April 7, 1945 he was promoted to Major.

Major Hudson returned to the Arkansas Army National Guard and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on September 25, 1953 serving as the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2 with Headquarters, 39th Infantry Division during his National Guard assignment from 1947 to 1959.

Lieutenant Colonel Hudson's military education included University of Illinois, American Military Government, 1943; Command and General Staff College, 1951; Air-Ground Operations School, 1953; Special Weapons and Guided Missile Orientation, 1957 and Electronic Warfare Staff Officer, 1959.

Lieutenant Colonel Hudson's awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit, European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Ribbon with four bronze stars, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Lieutenant Colonel Hudson was married to the former Cecile Stanford. They resided at 5405 Country Club Boulevard, Little Rock, Arkansas with their three children. He retired from the Arkansas National Guard on February 29, 1960. He Served as the fifteenth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1955-56.

## **COLONEL FRED M. CROOM**

Colonel Fred M. Croom was born on July 18, 1913 at Oxford, Arkansas. He graduated from Morrilton High School, Morrilton, Arkansas in 1933. He attended Arkansas State Teachers College graduating in 1940 with the Bachelor of Science degree in Education and from the University of Arkansas in 1948 with the Master of Arts Degree.

Colonel Croom began his military career by enlisting as a Private on September 15, 1933 at Batesville, Arkansas with Company L, 153rd Infantry Regiment, Arkansas National Guard. He served with Company L until February 3, 1935. On February 4, 1935 he joined Battery D, 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft), Russellville, Arkansas and served with them until September 16, 1939 and was promoted to Sergeant. May 14, 1942 he entered active duty at Camp Callan, California serving with the 57th Training Battalion. He attended Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis, North Carolina and was commissioned Second Lieutenant on February 4, 1943. He had duty assignments at Camp Haan, California; Fort Benning, Georgia and Fort Ord, California before beginning his overseas duty. From August 2, 1945 to January 31, 1946 he was assigned to Manila, Philippine Islands and promoted to Captain, Supply Officer. Captain Croom rejoined the Arkansas National Guard October 22, 1946 assigned as Company Commander, Company A, 217th Engineer Combat Battalion, Russellville, Arkansas. On January 1, 1950 he was appointed Commander Officer, 217th Engineer Battalion and promoted to Major on April 5, 1950. On January 29, 1954 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel still serving as the Commander, 217th Combat Engineer Battalion. He resigned as Commander on February 9, 1955 when he was ordered to active duty, appointed Director of Selective Service for Arkansas and transferred to State Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas National Guard. On July 17, 1963 he was promoted to Colonel.

Colonel Croom's military education included the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, 1944 and the Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, 1949.

Colonel Croom was married and had two daughters. In his civilian career he was a teacher at Arkansas Polytechnic College, Russellville, Arkansas. He resided with his wife and family at 319 South Denver, Russellville, Arkansas. Colonel Croom served as the sixteenth President National Guard Association of Arkansas 1956-57.

## COLONEL LAWRENCE O. SAVAGE

Colonel Lawrence O. Savage was born in Sterling, Kansas, June 5, 1921. He attended public schools in Sterling until being called to active duty with the local National Guard unit in December, 1940.

His military service commenced in October, 1937 when he joined the Headquarters Battery, First Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. He attained the rank of Sergeant in this unit and was called to Active Duty in December, 1940 and moved with other units of his Division to Camp Robinson, Arkansas. In June 1941, he transferred from the Field Artillery to the Air Corps, taking a reduction in rank to Private in order to effect the transfer. He attended radio school at Scott Field, Illinois and was assigned to Kirtland Field, Albuquerque, New Mexico as a tower and AACS operator, eventually attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. In the fall of 1942 he received his cadet appointment and entered flying school. He graduated from flying school at Foster Field, Texas, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and rated a pilot on November 3, 1943. He attended fighter training at Hammond, Louisiana and arrived in England in March, 1944, joining the 362nd Fighter Group. He flew 80 combat missions out of England and France as part of the 9th Air Force in P-47 type aircraft. He claims one enemy aircraft probably destroyed, and one damaged in the air. He was shot down by enemy ground fire on his 27th mission while strafing an enemy convoy, evaded capture and returned to his unit. He returned to the zone of interior in March, 1945 and was assigned to Waycross, Georgia as a P-51 Instructor Pilot. While assigned there, he attended instructor gunnery courses at Goliad, Texas and Pinellas, Florida. In the fall of 1945, he left active duty and returned to Little Rock, Arkansas. He joined the Arkansas Air National Guard in April, 1947 as a pilot in the 154th Fighter Squadron, then equipped with P-51 type aircraft. He was called to active duty with that unit in October, 1950 in support of the Korean Conflict. He served as Squadron Operations Officer while flying 100 combat missions out of Itazuke, Japan and Taiga, Korea in F-84 type aircraft as a part of the 136th Fighter Group/Wing. He claimed one MIG-15 damaged in the air, completed his tour, and returned to the zone of interior in February, 1952. He was assigned to the 31st Strategic Fighter Wing at Turner Air Force Base, Albany, Georgia, upon his return from overseas. He returned to Japan with the 31st Fighter Wing in July, 1952 on "FOX PETER ONE", the first jet crossing of the Pacific, operating for a four month period out of Misawa, Japan, providing air defense of the northern area of Japan. He returned to the zone of interior in the fall of 1952 and remained with the 31st Fighter Wing until his release from active duty in May, 1953, when he rejoined the 154th, then redesignated Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. He served as the Squadron Operations Officer for a time and assumed command of the Squadron in the summer of 1955. He retained command of the Squadron until 1962 when the 189th Tactical Reconnaissance Group was formed. At that time, he was assigned the position of Deputy Commander for Operations and held that position until October, 1969, when he assumed command of the Group.

Colonel Savage, a command pilot, accumulated more than 5,000 flying hours in both conventional and jet aircraft. He is a graduate of the Air War College, through the correspondence program. He served as the seventeenth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas (1957-58) and served on various committees of that association through the years. He retired in 1975. Colonel Savage resides in Little Rock. He and his wife, Marilyn Lanell Savage have three children, Richard E., Sheri Lynne and Lori Jo.

### **COLONEL ALVIN WEIL STRAUSS, JR.**

Colonel Alvin Weil Strauss, Jr. was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on January 6, 1920. He graduated from Little Rock High School in 1936 and from Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana in 1939 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pre-Medicine. In 1943 he completed the requirements for his Medical Doctorate from Tulane.

Colonel Strauss began his military career when he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Medical Corps, May 15, 1942 while attending Tulane University. On February 13, 1944 he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He entered active duty on March 9, 1944 serving at Carlisle Barracks, Deshon General Hospital, Woodrow Wilson General Hospital and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. On September 14, 1944 he began his tour of duty in the European Theater of Operations serving as the Battalion Surgeon for the 1257th Engineer Battalion and was promoted to Captain. He served in Europe with the 136th Engineer Battalion from September 16, 1945 to July 15, 1946. Captain Strauss returned to the United States and was released from active duty on October 3, 1946. On August 25, 1947 he joined the Arkansas Army National Guard, commissioned Captain, Medical Corps with Company D, 125th Medical Battalion. He was promoted to Major on February 23, 1951 and appointed Commander, Clearing Company, 125th Medical Battalion. On October 11, 1956 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and continued serving as Commander, Clearing Company, 125th Medical Battalion. He was appointed Commander, 125th Medical Battalion and promoted to Colonel on October 16, 1959.

Colonel Strauss' military education included Medical Aspects of Nuclear Energy, Hospital Administration, Medical Field Services School and Psychological Warfare School.

Colonel Strauss was married to the former Leslie Gertrude Marks and they resided with their two children at 5500 South Grandview, Little Rock, Arkansas. Colonel Strauss served as the eighteenth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1958-59. He retired from military service on June 6, 1962.



## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL DAVID CRAWFORD, JR.**

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel David Crawford, Jr. was born on December 26, 1917 at El Dorado, Arkansas. He graduated from El Dorado High School in 1935 and El Dorado Junior College in 1937. He was the son of Major Samuel David Crawford who retired from the Arkansas National Guard on October 31, 1934.

Lieutenant Colonel Crawford began his military career on December 18, 1935 enlisting as a Private in the Arkansas National Guard, El Dorado, Arkansas. He served as a signal man for Headquarters Detachment and Company Trains, 1st Battalion, 206th Coast Artillery. On May 26, 1936 he was promoted to Private First Class and on June 1, 1938 to Corporal. He also qualified as a chauffeur and a clerk. He was ordered to active duty September 13, 1939 to attend the Enlisted Specialist Radio Course at Fort Monroe, Virginia and graduated on December 22, 1939. Promoted to Sergeant March 13, 1940 and Staff Sergeant October 15, 1940. On January 6, 1941 he entered active duty serving with the 206th Coast Artillery at Fort Bliss, Texas and Dutch Harbor, Alaska until August 7, 1941. He was promoted to Master Sergeant and attended Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis, North Carolina in April 1942 and commissioned Second Lieutenant July 7, 1942. On August 8, 1942 he entered duty at Combined Arms Detachment, U.S. Army Military Academy, West Point, New York. Promoted to First Lieutenant on February 15, 1943 and promoted to Captain January 4, 1944. He continued duty at West Point until January 9, 1946 when released from active duty. On October 8, 1946 he was appointed Captain, Infantry, Arkansas National Guard. On November 4, 1946 he was assigned to command Headquarters Company, 206th Tank Battalion, El Dorado, Arkansas. He was ordered to attend the Armor Officer Indoctrination Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky on January 11, 1948. On June 15, 1950 he was assigned Battalion Motor Officer, Headquarters & Headquarters & Service Company, 206th Heavy Tank Battalion, El Dorado, Arkansas. On December 1, 1952 he was promoted to Major, Armor, Operations and Training Officer, Headquarters, 206th Tank Battalion. In May, 1953 he became commander of that unit. On September 30, 1954 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Armor.

Lieutenant Colonel Crawford's awards and decorations included the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, the Army Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Award.

Lieutenant Colonel Crawford was married to Alma Lucille Crawford. They had three children and resided at 601 Euclid, El Dorado, Arkansas. He retired from the Arkansas National Guard on December 18, 1962. He served as the nineteenth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1959-60.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN WESLEY SAMPIER**

Lieutenant Colonel John Wesley Sampier was born on September 5, 1905 at Lingleville, Texas. He graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1928 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He was a Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) Cadet and was commissioned Second Lieutenant upon graduation June 1, 1928.

Lieutenant Colonel Sampier began his military career with the Arkansas National Guard when he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery with Battery F, 142nd Field Artillery, Rogers, Arkansas. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on November 6, 1931. On April 27, 1937 he was promoted to Captain, Commander, Battery F, 142nd Field Artillery. He was ordered into active federal service on January 6, 1941. Promoted to Major on November 16, 1942.

Major Sampier began his European Theater of Operations service on February 11, 1944. He served with Headquarters, 5th Armored Division as a Civil Affairs Officer. His campaigns included Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with five bronze stars; American Theater Campaign Ribbon; American Defense Service Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon. He returned to the United States on December 5, 1945. He was released from active duty on March 25, 1946 at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

Major Sampier rejoined the Arkansas National Guard on October 17, 1946 as Major, Field Artillery with the 936th Field Artillery Battalion. Inducted into active federal service on August 21, 1950 stationed with X Corps Headquarters, Korea. On November 20, 1953 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Artillery, State Headquarters, Arkansas National Guard. He was released from active duty on December 15, 1953 and on January 11, 1954 transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Group, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

In his civilian life, Lieutenant Colonel Sampier was an attorney by profession. He served as a Representative, Arkansas General Assembly, 1935-37; Arkansas State Senate, 1939-41; State Commander, Arkansas Department, the American Legion, 1946; President Rogers Kiwanis Club 1949 and Chairman, Governor's Veteran's Advisory Legislative Committee, 1947. He resided with his wife the former Dorothy Emma McCain and his son, John Wesley Sampier, Jr. at 221 North 9th Street, Rogers, Arkansas. Lieutenant Colonel Sampier retired from military service on March 31, 1961 ending a military career that extended over thirty-two years including over eight years of active service in both World War II and the Korean Conflict. He served as the twentieth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1960-61.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRED CAESAR STORM**

Lieutenant Colonel Fred Caesar Storm was born on January 20, 1917 at Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Little Rock High School in 1935 and studied engineering at Little Rock Junior College from 1935 to 1937.

Lieutenant Colonel Storm began his military career when he enlisted as a Private in the U.S. Army at Camp Joseph Taylor Robinson, Arkansas. He underwent basic training from November 2, 1942 to December 1, 1942. He was transferred to Camp Sibert, Alabama on December 2, 1942 and promoted to Corporal serving with Company G, 1st CWS Training Regiment. He attended Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Edgewood, Maryland and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in July 23, 1943. He returned to Camp Sibert and served as Executive Officer, Company L, 1st CWS Training Regiment and later with S-3 duties. On October 28, 1944 he attended Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He reported to Camp Shelby, Mississippi on January 7, 1945, promoted to First Lieutenant with S-3 duties Headquarters, 71st Mortar Battalion. He began overseas duty serving in the Pacific Theater at Okinawa and Manila, Philippine Islands from July, 1945 to May 1946. On 12 May, 1946 he was promoted to Captain and served with the 424th Group Headquarters as Assistant S-3 until September 19, 1948.

Lieutenant Colonel Storm joined the Arkansas National Guard on September 20, 1948 commissioned Captain, Field Artillery, Counter Mortar, Assistant S-2, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 39th Division Artillery. He was promoted to Major on June 1, 1951 and assigned Communications Officer, Headquarters, 39th Division Artillery, Arkansas National Guard. He was reassigned on May 3, 1954 as Commander, 212th Signal Battalion. On June 24, 1955 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Signal Corps, Commander, 212th Signal Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Storm resided with his wife and son at 229 South Elm, Little Rock, Arkansas and later at 3701 Lakeview, North Little Rock, Arkansas. Lieutenant Colonel Storm retired from military service on February 19, 1970 still serving as Commander, 212th Signal Battalion. He served as the twenty-first President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1961-62.

## **BRIGADIER GENERAL ROY CHARLES MARTIN**

Brigadier General Roy Charles Martin was born on February 28, 1915 at Fort Smith, Arkansas. He graduated from Magazine High School, Magazine, Arkansas in 1932. He attended Arkansas Tech from 1932 to 1934 and graduated from College of the Ozarks in 1936 with a Bachelor of Science Degree.

Brigadier General Martin enlisted as a Private on September, 1933 at Russellville, Arkansas. He was appointed Second Lieutenant on November 6, 1939, First Lieutenant on April 19, 1941 and Captain on May 9, 1942. During World War II Brigadier General Martin served with the Armed Forces in campaigns in Normandy, Rhineland, Northern France, Central Europe and the Ardennes serving with the 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion from December 8, 1941 to January 17, 1946. His duty positions included Commander, Headquarters Battery; Battalion Motor Officer and Battalion S-4. Upon release from Active Service at the end of World War II, he was assigned as Battery Commander of Battery B, 937th Field Artillery Battalion, Paris, Arkansas. He was promoted to Major on November 29, 1946. On March 1, 1951 he became a full-time employee of the Arkansas National Guard as Staff Assistant, 39th Infantry Division Artillery. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on January 16, 1956. On October 16, 1966 he was promoted to Colonel and appointed Commanding Officer of the 39th Infantry Division Artillery. On October 17, 1968 he was promoted to Brigadier General, Assistant Adjutant General, Arkansas Army National Guard.

Brigadier General Martin's awards and decorations included the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, American Defense Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Ribbon with five Bronze Service Stars, Legion of Merit Award, World War II Victory Medal, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two Ten Year Devices. He attended a number of service schools including Quartermaster Motor Transportation, 1941; the Advanced Field Artillery Officers Associate Course, 1953; Command and General Staff College, 1955; Artillery Field Grade Course, 1958; U.S. Army Special Warfare School, 1968 and Senior Officer Orientation Course, 1969.

His civilian affiliations included the National Guard Association of Arkansas, National Guard Association of the United States, Sylvan Hills Sherwood Optimist Club, Sylvan Hills Methodist Church, 32nd Degree Mason and active member of Scimitar Shrine Temple Order of the Eastern Star, member of Former Logan County Association of Pulaski County, a former teacher and coach and superintendent of schools in Magazine, Arkansas from 1946 to 1951.

Brigadier General Martin resided with his wife the former Madolyn Lancaster Martin and two sons, Roy and Charles at 3115 Kellogg Road, North Little Rock, Arkansas. He retired from military service February 28, 1975. Brigadier General Martin served as the twenty-second President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1962-63.

## **COLONEL DOUGLAS CRAGIN SHELTON**

Colonel Douglas Cragin Shelton was born at the Presidio of San Francisco, California on March 2, 1923. He was the son of Colonel Harvey Shelton, United States Air Force of Tahlequah, Oklahoma and Virginia Knox Shelton of Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended schools in Conway, Arkansas; Mercersburg Academy, Pennsylvania; the University of West Virginia and the University of Tennessee.

He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant as a pilot in World War II, flying P-40 Warhawks and P-47 Thunderbolts. In the Arkansas Air National Guard he flew P-51 Mustangs in the 154th Fighter Squadron and the F-80 Shooting Star in the Korean Conflict, serving as the Assistant Director of Operations of the 6351st Fighter Wing. He commanded four squadrons during his career before being assigned to the Pentagon as Executive Director of the Air National Guard. His last two assignments were three years as special assistant to the Commander, United States Air Force Special Operations Force and National Guard Liaison to the United States Air Force Basic Military Training Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Colonel Shelton was past President of the Little Rock Bow Hunters Club, the Arkansas National Guard Association of Arkansas and the David D. Terry Chapter of the Air Force Association. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Retired Officers Association of Arkansas and the National Guard Association of Arkansas and the National Guard Association of the United States. He was also a member of the Society of American Magicians and an adult worker in the Boy Scouts of America serving as a District Commissioner in Little Rock and Alexandria, Virginia. He was a certified member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

Colonel Shelton retired in April 1973 to make his home with his wife, Margaret Remmel Shelton in Little Rock. In retirement, he and his wife were active as volunteers with humane societies and senior citizen groups. He had two sons, Colonel Douglas C. Shelton, Jr., United States Air Force of Alexandria, Virginia and Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Shelton, United States Air Force, Kailua, Hawaii. Colonel Shelton died Friday, January 19, 1996. Colonel Shelton served as the twenty-third President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1963-64.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL BURRIS BENHAM, JR.**

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Burris Benham, Jr. was born on February 27, 1921 at Memphis, Tennessee. He attended Marianna High School, Marianna, Arkansas from 1936 to 1938 and graduated from Georgia Military Academy, College Point, Georgia in June, 1939. He attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee studying Business Administration from 1939 to 1942.

Lieutenant Colonel Benham began his military career when he enlisted as a Private in Headquarters Battery, 206th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) at Marianna, Arkansas on June 18, 1935. He was promoted to Private First Class on August 1, 1936; Corporal on July 16, 1937 and Sergeant on January 24, 1938. He was ordered to Active Duty on July 3, 1942 with duty at Sheppard Field, Texas. He also served with the South Atlantic Sub Patrol, Atkinson Field, B.G. On January 2, 1943 he was transferred to Camp Davis, North Carolina to attend Officer Candidate School and commissioned Second Lieutenant on April 15, 1943. He served for a brief period at Fort Eustis, Virginia before shipping overseas to North Africa with the 35th AAA Brigade. He was promoted to Captain and served in North Africa and Italy with the 35th AAA Brigade, 6705 Censor and Headquarters, 98th Bomb Group until June 5, 1945. On June 6 he returned stateside serving at Grand Island Army Air Field, Nebraska until his release from active duty on August 5, 1945. On December 12, 1946 Lieutenant Colonel Benham rejoined the Arkansas National Guard commissioned Captain, Field Artillery and assigned as S-2 Counter Mortar Officer, Headquarters, 39th Division Artillery. On April 21, 1950 he was promoted to Major, Field Artillery, Intelligence Officer, 39th Division Artillery. He was reassigned to Executive Officer, 445th Field Artillery Battalion on March 6, 1954. On June 21, 1955 he was assigned as Battalion Commander, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, 326th AAA Battalion, West Memphis, Arkansas. On March 28, 1958 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Field Artillery, Headquarters, 326th AAA Battalion - Automatic Weapons (AW). He was reassigned Commander of the newly designated Headquarters, 5th Howitzer Battalion, 206th Artillery, 39th Infantry Brigade, West Memphis, Arkansas on December 1, 1967. On June 26, 1969 he was transferred to Civil Affairs Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Little Rock, Arkansas.

Lieutenant Colonel Benham's awards and decorations include the Presidential Unit Citation with Cluster, European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Ribbon with eleven Bronze Stars, American Theater Ribbon; Victory Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Ten Year Device.

Lieutenant Colonel Benham's military education included Aircraft Armament School, Lowry Field, Colorado, September to November, 1942; Power Gun Turret and Computing Gun Sight School, Detroit, Michigan, November 1942, Officer Candidate School January to April, 1943; Associate Basic Artillery Officer Course, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, January to April, 1950 and Field Artillery Field Grade Officer Refresher Course, 1963.

Lieutenant Colonel Benham was married to the former Evelyn Ann Wilkerson. They had one son and resided at Highway 1, Marianna, Arkansas. In his civilian career he worked in farming and real estate and served as an Arkansas Senator. He retired from military service on June 1, 1970. Lieutenant Colonel Benham served as the twenty-fourth President National Guard Association of Arkansas 1964-65.

## **COLONEL MARION EARNEST JOHNSON**

Colonel Marion Earnest Johnson was born on July 10, 1911 at New Blaine, Arkansas. He graduated from Bald Knob High School, Bald Knob, Arkansas in 1929. He attended State Teacher's College, Conway, Arkansas from 1929 to 1932 and graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree.

Colonel Johnson's military career began on July 19, 1938 when he enlisted as a Private, machine gunner in Company F, 153rd Infantry, Arkansas Army National Guard, Dardanelle, Arkansas. On July 1, 1939 he was promoted to Corporal and on January 10, 1940 to Sergeant. He was ordered to active federal service on December 23, 1940 with his unit. On June 12, 1941 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Infantry with duties as platoon leader, Company F, 153rd Infantry at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. On August 1, 1941 his unit left for overseas duty on Annette Island until their return on April 8, 1944. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on July 23, 1942 and to Captain on March 17, 1943 as Company Commander, Company F, 153rd Infantry. From April 9, 1944 to August 10, 1944 he was stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and from August 11 to December 25, 1945 at Camp Robinson, Arkansas where he was released from active duty. On November 20, 1946 he was promoted to Major, Infantry and assigned as Executive Officer, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, Morrilton, Arkansas. On November 21, 1951 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, serving as Battalion Commander, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry. On June 5, 1959 he was promoted to Colonel as Commander, First Battle Group, 153rd Infantry. On November 8, 1961 he was reassigned as Assistant Adjutant General, Arkansas Army National Guard. On May 1, 1963 he assumed command of 3rd Brigade, 39th Infantry Division, Beebe, Arkansas. And on February 23, 1966 he was reassigned as the Operations and Training Staff Officer, Arkansas Army National Guard.

Colonel Johnson's military training included Infantry Officer Refresher Course, Fort Benning, Georgia, 1945; Advanced Infantry Officer Course, Fort Benning, Georgia, 1952; Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1952; Infantry Field Grade Refresher Course, Fort Benning, Georgia, 1954; Infantry Field Grade Refresher Course, Fort Benning, Georgia, 1960 and Defense Strategy Seminar, National War College, Washington, D.C., 1962.

Colonel Johnson's awards and decorations included the American Defense Service Medal and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with Battle Star. He was married to Ruth L. Johnson and they resided at Marvel, Arkansas and then at 1930 Robinson, Conway, Arkansas. Colonel Johnson retired on August 1966. He served as the twenty-fifth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas.



## **COLONEL ANDREW NUNAN MCCURRY**

Colonel Andrew Nunan McCurry was born on March 4, 1914 at Mountain View, Arkansas. He graduated from Clinton State Vocational Training School, Clinton, Arkansas in 1935. He attended Tahlequah Teachers School, Tahlequah, Oklahoma and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas studying Business Administration, 1936-37.

During World War II, Colonel McCurry served on Active Duty from July 7, 1942 to March 4, 1946. He was appointed Second Lieutenant, July 7, 1942 as Service Officer with the 264th Ordnance Company. Appointed First Lieutenant April 12, 1944, Maintenance Officer, 264th Ordnance Company. Appointed Captain, Assistant Ordnance Officer, X Corps, October 3, 1944. Appointed Major, Ordnance Corps, January 11, 1946. His overseas service was in the Pacific Theater from August, 1944 to January, 1946. He served in battles and campaigns in New Guinea and the Southern Philippines.

Colonel McCurry joined the Arkansas National Guard on August 5, 1953 and was appointed to Major, Corps of Engineers, Headquarters, 875th Engineer Battalion. On March 1, 1960 he was appointed Commander, 739th Ordnance Battalion, 39th Infantry Division. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on January 6, 1961. On December 7, 1966 he assumed command of 39th Infantry Division Support Command and on December 16, 1966 he was promoted to Colonel, Ordnance Corps, Commander, Headquarters, 39th Infantry Division Support Command. On November 29, 1967 he was branch transferred to Infantry and on December 1, 1967 he was appointed Commander, Emergency Operation Headquarters, Arkansas Army National Guard. He was appointed Superintendent, Arkansas Military Academy on December 1, 1969.

Colonel McCurry's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with Two Bronze Stars, American Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with One Bronze Star and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. Colonel McCurry's military education included the Ordnance school, 1943 and the Engineer School, 1955.

Colonel McCurry resided with his wife, the former Geraldine Monroe and their three daughters at 101 West Searcy Street, Heber Springs, Arkansas. His civilian occupation was manager in the retail automotive business. He was the owner and operator of McCurry Chevrolet Company, 123 East Main Street, Heber Springs, Arkansas. He was a member of the American Legion, Lions Club, Rotary, Young Men's Business Club, Arkansas Automotive Dealers Association and the Masonic Order, Heber Springs, Arkansas. Colonel McCurry retired from military service on October 31, 1971. He served as the twenty-sixth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1966-67.

## **BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID EARL ROBERTS**

Brigadier General David Earl Roberts was born on December 14, 1923 at Jacksonville, Arkansas. He was the son of Dave A. Roberts of Corinth, Mississippi and Rubie Nellie Rogers Roberts of Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended Bayou Meto Elementary and Junior High School and Jacksonville High School until May 1939. He also attended the University of Wichita, Wichita, Kansas studying Engineering during 1941.

Brigadier General Roberts began his military career on October 27, 1942 by enlisting as a Private in the Army Air Corps. He attended training at Sheppard Field; Wichita, Kansas; Mustang Field; Enid, Oklahoma; and Altus, Oklahoma. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant on May 23, 1944 after completing Primary, Basic, and Advanced Pilot Training at Randolph Field, Texas. He continued to serve on Active Duty from May 24, 1944 to October 8, 1945 as a Pilot Instructor at Sedalia, Missouri. He completed an excellent record with the Troop Carrier Command during World War II, serving as both a flight and ground instructor in C-47 and C-46 type aircraft. During this period he personally instructed sixty pilot officers in twin engine transition and combat crew operations. From October 9, 1945 to October 7, 1948 he was a member of the Officer Reserve Corps, 813th Composite Group, Air Corps.

On October 8, 1948 Brigadier General Roberts joined the Arkansas Air National Guard and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant, Air Corps. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on July 14, 1949. Prior to his recall to Active Duty on October 10, 1950, he served as a member of the 154th Fighter Squadron, Arkansas Air National Guard for two years. During this period he gained considerable experience in flying, administration, supply and operations in general. While on Active Duty from 1950 to 1952 he served as Assistant Chief, Flight Operations, Air Force Division, National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He was responsible for the Aerial Tow Target Program in support of Anti-Aircraft Artillery Units of the United States Army and the Army Reserve Forces.

On July 10, 1952 he returned to Arkansas, serving as an Administrative Officer with the Arkansas Air National Guard. He was promoted to Captain on July 20, 1952 at the recommendation of Major General Earl T. Ricks, Deputy Chief, National Guard Bureau, United States Air Force. On June 18, 1959 he was promoted to Major and to Lieutenant Colonel on July 11, 1963. During this time period he served with the Headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard, Adams Field, Little Rock and the 154th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. He held positions of Instructor Pilot, C-47 Aircraft; Flying Safety Officer and Motor Vehicle Maintenance Staff Officer. He was promoted to Colonel on April 2, 1969, named Assistant Adjutant General, Air, Headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard at Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, Arkansas and was subsequently appointed Brigadier General.

Brigadier General Roberts was married to the former Marian Lu Knowles and they resided at 3419 North Hills Boulevard in North Little Rock, Arkansas. They had two daughters, Debra and Patricia Lynn. He was a member of the Home Builders Association, Crescent Lodge 403 and the National Guard Association of Arkansas and the United States. Brigadier General Roberts served as the twenty-seventh President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1967-68.

## **MAJOR GENERAL HERBERT LYNN WASSELL, JR.**

Major General Herbert Lynn Wassell, Jr. was born on October 17, 1931, the son of Rosalea and H. Lynn Wassell, Sr. in Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Little Rock Central High School and the University of Arkansas receiving his Bachelor of Science degree. He was president student chapter, American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Major General Wassell began his military career in 1954 commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force Reserve. He served on Active Duty from 1954 to 1957. From 1958 to 1969 he served with the Arkansas Air National Guard being promoted to the rank of Major General. His military awards include the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Major General Wassell's civilian career included employment with Ginocchio and Cromwell of Little Rock from 1947 to 1954; Swain and Allen of Little Rock from 1957 to 1961; partner firm of Robinson and Wassell from 1961 to 1969. He was a corporate member, Arkansas Chapter, AIA and a member of the board of trustees, Museum of Science and Natural Histories, 1964-65. He designed a building that won the "Hennessey Trophy" for the Air Force. This design later became the standard for all A.D.C. bases.

Major General Wassell's great grandfather, John Wassell and his uncle, Sam Wassell both served as mayor of Little Rock. His cousin, Cory Wassell was an Admiral in the U.S. Navy and a hero of World War II.

Major General Wassell was married to the former Carol McNelly in 1964. He served as the twenty-eighth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1968-69.

## **COLONEL JAMES R. BURDELL**

Colonel James R. Burdell, a graduate of Little Rock High School, began his military career when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He enlisted in the Arkansas National Guard on March 22, 1948 as a member of Headquarters Company, 153rd Infantry. Colonel Burdell was commissioned a Warrant Officer in 1951 and became a full time employee with the National Guard. In 1954 he was reassigned to Headquarters Company, 212th Signal Battalion. He was promoted to Captain in 1955 and reassigned to State Headquarters. In 1962 Colonel Burdell was transferred to the Administration Company of the 39th Infantry Division and in 1967 moved to Director of Personnel and Administration, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas Army National Guard. He was promoted to Colonel on April 6, 1973.

Colonel Burdell's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Third Award, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Colonel Burdell graduated from the Army's Command and General Staff College in 1968.

Colonel Burdell was a member of M.M. Ebberts Post One, American Legion. He resided with his wife, Maxine at 43 Westmont Circle in Little Rock. They had one daughter, Mrs. Janna Ford of Lewisville, Texas. Colonel Burdell retired on April 6, 1978 with more than thirty years military service. During his career he worked closely with the National Guard Bureau and was instrumental in updating personnel policies not only in the Arkansas Army National Guard but in the entire Nation's Guard Force. He served as the twenty-ninth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1969-70.

## **COLONEL ELLIS GLENN HENSON**

Colonel Ellis Glenn Henson was born on August 18, 1925 at Pottsville, Arkansas. He graduated from North Little Rock High School in 1943 and Little Rock Junior College in May, 1952.

Colonel Henson began his military career when he was inducted into the United States Army as a Private on November 11, 1943 at Camp Joseph Taylor Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas. He completed training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas; Camp Roberts, California, and Fort Ord, California. He was then transferred to Camp Butner, North Carolina and Camp Atterbury, Indiana before beginning his tour in the European Theater of Operations on October 20, 1944 serving with Company H, 424th Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division. He returned from Europe on June 29, 1946 and was discharged from the active service on July 2, 1946 as First Sergeant at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Colonel Henson joined the Arkansas Army National Guard on August 26, 1947 enlisting in the Ambulance Company, 125th Medical Battalion, Little Rock, Arkansas. By the end of his first enlistment on August 25, 1950 he had been promoted to Master Sergeant. On May 4, 1951 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Medical Services Corps, with duties as Platoon Leader, Ambulance Company, 125th Medical Battalion, Little Rock, Arkansas. On January 16, 1952 he was reassigned as Adjutant and S-1, Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 125th Medical Battalion and was promoted to First Lieutenant January 16, 1953. Promoted to Captain, January 17, 1955. On February 11, 1955 he was transferred back to the Ambulance Company, 125th Medical Battalion as Company Commander. On December 1, 1961 he was promoted to Major, S-3, Medical Services Corps, Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment, 125th Medical Battalion and on March 16, 1964 appointed as Executive Officer, Headquarters & Company A, 125th Medical Battalion. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel August 23, 1968. Promoted to Colonel, United States Army Reserve, August 22, 1973.

Colonel Henson's awards and decorations included the Bronze Star Medal (for exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy while assigned as Private, 424th Infantry Regiment on January 4, 1945 in the European Theater of Operations), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Ten Year Device and Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal.

Colonel Henson's Military Education included Medical Field Service School; Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 1971; Command and General Staff College, 1972 and U.S. Army War College Nonresident Class of 1974.

Colonel Henson resided with his wife, the former Mildred Inis Pearce and their daughter, Rebecca Lynn Henson at 1720 Pinewood Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas. In his civilian career, Colonel Henson was the Personnel Director for Saint Vincent Infirmary, Little Rock, Arkansas. Colonel Henson retired from military service on June 30, 1982. He served as the thirtieth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1970-71.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL SAMUEL H. NORVELL, JR.**

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel H. Norvell, Jr. was born in Charleston, Arkansas. He graduated from Fort Smith Senior High School and attended Westark Community College in Fort Smith.

Lieutenant Colonel Norvell began his military career on May 19, 1943 enlisting in the U.S. Army as a private. He was appointed Aviation Cadet in July 1943 and attended Navigation Training School at Hondo, Texas. He graduated and was appointed Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Corps on December 9, 1944. He served as a navigator on B-17's and B-29's until March 1946.

Lieutenant Colonel Norvell entered the Arkansas Army National Guard as a Military Police Commander on February 4, 1947. He transferred to the Air National Guard in 1954 as a Captain, U.S. Air Force Navigator B-26. He was appointed Group Intelligence Officer in 1956 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1973. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Norvell's military education included completion of the Military Police Officer extension course and various Air Force Technical Training Courses in Intelligence. He completed the Navigator Training Course, receiving his Navigator Wings. He also completed various courses in Photo Interpretation Training during his career as a Group Intelligence Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Norvell is a member of the National Guard Association of the United States and a life member of the National Guard Association of Arkansas. He is active in church, local Girls Shelter Board member and several volunteer organizations including: Phillips Cancer Support House, VITA Program with the IRS, Masonic Organizations, and the Western Arkansas Consistory KCCH. He is a Past President Local Chapter National Sojourners - Hero.

Lieutenant Colonel Norvell is married to the former Polly Walker. They reside in Fort Smith, Arkansas and have two daughters and four grandchildren. He served as the thirty-first President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, 1971-72.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL BILLY DEAN BALLARD**

Lieutenant Colonel Billy Dean Ballard was born on June 7, 1930 at Carnegie, Oklahoma. He graduated from Ozark High School, Ozark, Arkansas in 1948 and attended College of the Ozarks 1949-50.

Lieutenant Colonel Ballard began his military career enlisting as a Private, Battery C, 937th Field Artillery, Ozark, Arkansas on July 24, 1947. He continued his service through August 20, 1950 and was promoted to Corporal. On August 21, 1950 he was ordered to Active Duty with his unit to serve in the Korean Conflict. He was promoted to Master Sergeant on September 14, 1951 and continued service in Korea until November 6, 1951. On November 7, 1951 he transferred to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, Officer Reserve Corps. He continued duty at Fort Sill until completion of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, October 29, 1952 to February 28, 1953.

Lieutenant Colonel Ballard rejoined the Arkansas Army National Guard on December 5, 1953 and was commissioned First Lieutenant, Field Artillery, February 26, 1954, Executive Officer, Battery C, 937th Field Artillery, Ozark, Arkansas. He was promoted to Captain, Battery Commander, March 4, 1955, Battery C, 937th Field Artillery (155mm), Ozark, Arkansas and promoted to Major on August 29, 1963, S-3, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery (8 inch, self propelled). On November 21, 1966 he was assigned as Battalion Executive Officer and then Commander, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, October 4, 1967. He was assigned Executive Officer, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Group, June 17, 1969 and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Operations and Training Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas Army National Guard, May 8, 1972.

Lieutenant Colonel Ballard's awards and decorations include the Korean Service Medal with Two Bronze Stars and the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal.

Lieutenant Colonel Ballard's military education included Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course and Command and General Staff College.

Lieutenant Colonel Ballard was married to Wanita Ballard and they resided in Benton, Arkansas. He retired from military service on August 20, 1973. He served as the thirty-second President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1972-73.



## **BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD SCHNEIDER**

Brigadier General Edward Schneider was born in Pryor, Oklahoma on July 18, 1924. He attended public schools there, graduating from high school at Perry, Oklahoma in 1942. He attended Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Brigadier General Schneider's military career began in 1943 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps to attend pilot training. He received his wings and his commission as a Second Lieutenant on May 23, 1944. He served in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations during World War II. In February 1946, he was discharged from Active Duty and assigned to the Army Reserve Corps as a First Lieutenant.

In 1949, Brigadier General Schneider accepted an appointment as First Lieutenant in the Arkansas Air National Guard and was assigned to the 154th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Little Rock, Arkansas. In August 1950, he was called to extended active duty with the 154th Tactical Fighter Squadron during the Korean Conflict. Upon his release from Active Duty in October 1953, he returned to the Arkansas Air National Guard. In November of that year, he transferred to the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Fort Smith, Arkansas and was assigned as Base Supply Officer, both as an air technician and militarily.

Assuming command of the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in May 1960, Brigadier General Schneider was also appointed as the Base Detachment Commander (civilian air technician). He was again called to extended active duty in October 1961 during the Berlin Crisis, being released from Active Duty in August 1962. He assumed command of the 188th Tactical Reconnaissance Group in July 1964, and served in that capacity until January 1977, at which time he was assigned as the Executive Support Staff Officer of the Headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard at Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, Arkansas. On February 1, 1978, he was named Commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard, retaining his civilian position as Executive Support Staff Officer.

On July 1, 1979 Brigadier General Schneider resigned his position as Commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard and was reappointed to the military position of Executive Support Staff Officer. On May 31, 1980 he resigned and was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Arkansas National Guard and promoted to Brigadier General.

Brigadier General Schneider's awards and decorations include: the Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with eight devices, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hourglass and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

Brigadier General Schneider flew over 150 combat missions and logged over 600 combat hours during World War II. He qualified in the C-47, C-54, T-33, F-80, RF-84F, RF-101 and F-100 aircraft, logging over 6,000 total flying hours.

Brigadier General Schneider was a member of the National Guard Association of the United States, the National Guard Association of Arkansas and the Air Force Association. He was married to the former Barbara S. Cullins of Little Rock, Arkansas. He had three daughters, Mrs. Carol E. Glidwell, Mrs. Nancy T. Lepper and Miss Judy L. Schneider. He retired on April 30, 1981 after thirty-eight years of military service. Brigadier General Schneider served as the thirty-third President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1973-74.

## **BRIGADIER GENERAL OLIVER W. "DUB" MYERS**

Brigadier General Oliver W. "Dub" Myers was born at Forrest City, Arkansas. He graduated from Forrest City High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lyons College in Batesville, Arkansas.

Brigadier General Myers' military education includes completion of the United States Army Field Artillery School Basic and Advanced Officer Courses; United States Army Command and General Staff College; the Command and General Staff Officer Refresher Course (Separate Brigade), United States Army Infantry School Field Grade Officer Refresher Course, Infantry Commander and Staff Officer Course and the 1984 Infantry Course, United States Army Engineer School Officer Advanced Course and the United States Army War College Senior Reserve Officer Course.

Brigadier General Myers enlisted in Battery B, 445th Field Artillery Battalion in September, 1947 and served until discharged by reason of change of residence in May, 1949. He reenlisted in March, 1952 and on July 18, 1952 was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery with assignment as Reconnaissance and Survey Officer, Battery B, 445th Field Artillery Battalion.

In February, 1953 he was ordered to extended active duty and served in Korea with Battery C, 555th Field Artillery Battalion from September, 1953 to November, 1954. Upon release from active duty he was reassigned to the Arkansas Army National Guard.

Key assignments in the Arkansas Army National Guard included duty as S-1, S-3 and Executive Officer of the 4th Howitzer Battalion, 142nd Artillery; Executive Officer of the 875th Engineer Battalion; Commander of the 5th Battalion, 206th Field Artillery; and Executive Officer, Deputy Commander and Commander of the 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate). He was federally recognized as Brigadier General on August 5, 1982 and was designated as Deputy State Area Command (STARC) Commander on July 23, 1984.

Brigadier General Myers is a past president of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, the Paragould and Jacksonville Rotary Clubs, Association of the United States Army - Arkansas Chapter and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. He has also served on the Board of the United Way of Pulaski County; as Military Affairs Chairman for the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and as an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He is a member of the Masons, Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Arkansas Football Officials Association, Arkansas Basketball Officials Association and the Community Council of Little Rock Air Force Base and serves on the Board of the Jacksonville Boys and Girls Club. He is Community Relations Manager for Gwatney Chevrolet.

Brigadier General Myers resides in Jacksonville with his wife, Billie Ann (Page). They are the parents of two daughters, Lee Ann and Olivia. He served as the thirty-fourth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1974-75.

## **COLONEL JAMES B. USERY, JR.**

Colonel James B. Usery, Jr. graduated from North Little Rock High School in 1946.

Colonel Usery began his military service by enlisting in the United States Air Force in 1947. He continued on active duty until 1952 and was promoted to Tech Sergeant. In 1954 he joined the Arkansas Air National Guard's 118th Communication Squadron serving as a Tech Sergeant. He returned to the Air Force Reserve and then in 1955 he joined the Arkansas Army National Guard's 212th Signal Battalion and was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps. He continued service with the 212th Signal Battalion and was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1958. In 1959 he was promoted to Captain and in 1964 promoted to Major, Signal Corps, 212th Signal Battalion, Arkansas Army National Guard. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1970 and appointed Commander, 212th Signal Battalion. In 1972 he was named Recruiting and Retention Manager, Arkansas Army National Guard and subsequently promoted to Colonel.

Colonel Usery's military education included: Teletype Maintenance Course, 1948; Signal Officer Basic Course, 1955; Associate Signal Officer Career Course, 1961; Electronic Warfare Staff Officer Course, 1962; Signal Field Grade Officer Refresher, 1969; U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 1970; Civil Disturbance Orientation Course, 1970; Senior Officers Preventive Maintenance Course, 1972 and Signal Field Grade Officer Refresher Course, 1972.

Colonel Usery's awards and decorations included the Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal.

Colonel Usery was a member of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, the National Guard Association of the United States, the American Legion, the National Guard Executive Director's Association and Amboy Baptist Church. He resided with his wife, the former Bobbie Greer in North Little Rock, Arkansas. They had five children: Deborah Ann Dillon, Karen Lynn, David Eugene, Vicki Jo and James Robert. Colonel Usery served as the thirty-fifth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas.

## **COLONEL RICHARD LEE HOLT, JR.**

Colonel Richard Lee Holt, Jr. was born on November 9, 1931 at Fayetteville, Arkansas. He graduated from Fayetteville Senior High School July 22, 1949. He attended College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Arkansas 1949-50 and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 1952-55.

Colonel Holt began his military career by enlisting in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Group on December 20, 1949 at Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was ordered to active duty on September 3, 1950 with duty in Germany. He was promoted to Sergeant and released from active duty on July 21, 1952 and then promoted to Master Sergeant on September 15, 1953. On September 24, 1954 he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Group, Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was promoted to First Lieutenant, Platoon Leader, Infantry, 39th Replacement Company on September 23, 1957. On July 20, 1962 he was promoted to Captain, Infantry, Headquarters Company, Assistant G-2, 39th Infantry Division, Little Rock, Arkansas. He was promoted to Major, Infantry, November 3, 1971 serving as S-2 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Little Rock, Arkansas. In January, 1975 he was transferred to Training Administrator, National Guard Professional Education Center, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas Army National Guard, North Little Rock, Arkansas. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry on November 3, 1975 and assigned to Director of Training, National Guard Professional Education Center. On May 19, 1982 he was promoted to Colonel, Infantry and on October 18, 1983 he was appointed Commander, 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Colonel Holt's military education included: Infantry Officer Basic Course, 1956; Infantry Staff Officer Refresher Course, 1969; Infantry Officer Advance Course, 1971; Airmobility Training, 1972; Command and General Staff College, 1978; Field Artillery Brigade Staff Refresher Course, 1983; Senior Commander Chemical Course, 1985 and Brigade Staff Refresher Course, 1986.

Colonel Holt's awards and decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Occupation Medal (Germany), Overseas Service Bars, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal 3rd Award, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal 4th Award, Arkansas Service Ribbon 4th Award and Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon.

Colonel Holt resides with his wife Mary Louise in Conway, Arkansas. They have two children, Carol and James. Colonel Holt retired from military service on May 19, 1987. He served as the thirty-sixth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas.

## **COLONEL HUGH DEAN WILKERSON**

Colonel Hugh Dean Wilkerson was born in Sardis, Arkansas. He attended Little Rock Central High School and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Colonel Wilkerson began his military career in September, 1952, enlisting in the Arkansas Air National Guard. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in 1955. He attended U.S. Air Force Pilot Training in 1956-57 and held various flying positions throughout his career including Pilot, Instructor Pilot and Standards and Evaluation Flight Test Pilot. In August, 1978 he was promoted to Colonel and appointed Director of Operations, Headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard. He was reassigned as Assistant Adjutant General, Air, effective June 1, 1981.

Colonel Wilkerson's military education includes U.S. Air Force Pilot Training, various Flying Training Courses, Jet Engine Course, Maintenance Officer Course, Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces and Air War College.

Colonel Wilkerson is a Lifetime Member of the National Guard Association of the United States and was a former member of the Executive Council. He is a Lifetime Member (and Past President) of the National Guard Association of Arkansas. He is Past President, Air Force Association, Arkansas Chapter; Member Order of Daedalians; former member Little Rock Air Force Base Community Council, Member Trinity Lodge, Bendemeer Grotto, Little Rock, Consistory; Scimitar Shrine, Past President Central State Shrine Motor Corporation, Royal Order of Jesters.

Colonel Wilkerson resides in North Little Rock with his wife, the former Joyce Kinley. He has two children, Dean, Jr. and Michael. Colonel Wilkerson retired from military service on March 13, 1983. He served as the thirty-seventh President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1977-78.

## **COLONEL DONALD LEE SEARS**

Colonel Donald Lee Sears was an honor graduate of Marmaduke High School in 1957. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts from the University of New York State in 1988.

Colonel Sears enlisted in the Arkansas Army National Guard on February 22, 1960 and served in enlisted grades up through Staff Sergeant. During this period he served as Clerk-Typist, Personnel Specialist and Supply Sergeant. He began his full time National Guard service as an Administrative Supply Technician in October, 1961.

Colonel Sears was appointed a Warrant Officer in May, 1964 and served in this capacity through the grade of CW2. During this period his assignments were Battalion Personnel Officer and Battalion Supply Officer with full time assignments as Battalion Administrative Specialist and Battalion Property Book Officer.

Colonel Sears enrolled in the Arkansas Military Academy in 1970 and graduated in August of 1971 as Distinguished Honor Graduate. He attended the Engineer Officer Basic Course (Commandant's List) in 1972 and received the Leadership Award. In 1972 he also completed Airborne Ranger training earning the Parachutist Badge and Ranger Tab. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in August, 1974. He completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course in 1975. He served as Executive Officer, Company D, 875th Engineer Battalion, Paragould, Arkansas, with full time assignment as the 875th Battalion Training Officer. He served as Commander, Company B, 875th Engineer Battalion, Rector, Arkansas and was promoted to Captain on June 26, 1977. Colonel Sears served in a variety of key positions with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 875th Engineer Battalion, Jonesboro, Arkansas including Battalion S-1, Assistant Battalion S-3, and Battalion Executive Officer. He was promoted to Major on June 8, 1982. On December 1, 1984 he was assigned to Troop Command, Detachment 1, State Area Command, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, N. Little Rock, Arkansas serving as S-1. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on February 1, 1989 and reassigned as Executive Officer, Troop Command. On February 1, 1989 he was reassigned as Commander, 25th Rear Area Operations Center, N. Little Rock, Arkansas. Colonel Sears was promoted to full Colonel on July 30, 1990 and assigned as Support Division Director, Arkansas Army National Guard. On May 23, 1994 he was reassigned as Director of Maintenance, Arkansas Army National Guard.

Colonel Sears' military education includes: Arkansas Military Academy Officer Candidate School, 1971; Engineer Officer Basic Course, 1972; Airborne Ranger, 1972; Infantry Officer Basic Course, 1975; Engineer Officer Advanced Course, 1976; Command and General Staff College, 1981 and the United States Army War College, 1991.

Colonel Sears' awards and decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal Sixth Award, Armed Forces Reserve Medal Third Award, Army Service Ribbon, Ranger Tab, Parachute Badge, Arkansas Army National Guard Staff Identification Badge and the Arkansas Service Ribbon Seventh Award.

Colonel Sears is married to Mary Frances "Frankie" Sears. They have three children, Roni Bowman (Member of the Arkansas Air National Guard), Todd Sears (Member of the Arkansas Army National Guard) and Nichole Sears. He served as the thirty-eighth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1978-79.

## **MAJOR MICHAEL LEE VAUGHAN**

Major Michael Lee Vaughan was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 30, 1939. He attended Simon Kenton High School in Independence, Kentucky graduating on May 28, 1957. He then matriculated to the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky and completed requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology on June 12, 1961.

Major Vaughan began his military career on June 12, 1961 when he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon completion of his undergraduate degree. He began formal pilot training on November 16, 1961 at Reese Air Force Base, Texas. He completed his undergraduate pilot training on December 7, 1962 and was awarded his wings. He served overseas in the Southeast Asia Theater of Operation from March 23, 1966 to September 14, 1966. On May 16, 1963 he was promoted to First Lieutenant and on May 16, 1966 he was promoted to Captain. He continued on Active Duty until December 7, 1966 serving as a co-pilot on KC-135 aircraft with the 28th Air Refueling Squadron, Strategic Air Command, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. He served with the 77th Military Airlift Squadron (Reserves) Carswell Air Force Base, Texas from December 8, 1966 to July 14, 1967.

On July 15, 1967 Major Vaughan joined the Arkansas Air National Guard and was commissioned a Captain, Reconnaissance Pilot with the 184th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Fort Smith, Arkansas. On December 26, 1967 he was reassigned to the 188th Tactical Reconnaissance Group as the Air Operations Officer. He served with the 188th until April 15, 1969 when he was assigned back to the 184th as Reconnaissance Pilot. On January 31, 1970 he was assigned Reconnaissance Pilot, Tactical Electronic Warfare and on June 15, 1972 he was assigned Tactical Fighter Pilot. On October 5, 1973 he was promoted to Major and on January 2, 1974 he was assigned Squadron Pilot Tactical Fighter.

Major Vaughan's awards and decorations included the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Air Force Longevity Medal with oak leaf cluster. In civilian life, Major Vaughan served as a pilot with Braniff Airlines, Dallas, Texas. He was married to Marilyn Vaughan. They resided in Irving, Texas and later in Germantown, Tennessee. He was honorably discharged from the Arkansas Air National Guard on June 11, 1982 and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. Major Vaughan served as the thirty-ninth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1979-80.

## **COLONEL RODERICK GLENN PIKER**

Colonel Roderick Glenn Piker was born in Plymouth, Michigan. He graduated from North Little Rock High School, North Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended Little Rock Junior College, Arkansas State University and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts from the University of the State of New York, Albany, New York.

Colonel Piker began his military career on September 27, 1954 enlisting in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He progressed through the enlisted ranks until he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Medical Service Corps, July 15, 1965. He was promoted to Colonel on October 29, 1987.

Colonel Piker's military education includes U.S. Army Pre-Commissioning Course, Arkansas Military Academy, Army Medical Field Service School, U.S. Army Adjutant General School, Medical Service Corps Career Course, Adjutant General Corps Career Course, Command and General Staff College and the National Defense University.

Colonel Piker served as a Past President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, a member of the National Guard Association of the United States, Free and Accepted Mason, Scottish Rite and National Sojourners.

Colonel Piker resides in Sherwood, Arkansas with his wife, the former Louise Elmore. They have three sons, Bruce and Alan Piker and Mike Elmore. Colonel Piker served as the fortieth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1980-81.



## **BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES E. THOMEY**

Brigadier General James E. Thomey was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, April 27, 1936. He attended parochial and high school in Little Rock, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the University of Central Arkansas and Thomas Edison State College.

Brigadier General Thomey is a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.

Brigadier General Thomey enlisted in the Arkansas Air National Guard, 154th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, on February 14, 1954. He attended the Aircraft Mechanic Course at Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas, and continued to serve in various positions of the Aircraft Maintenance Function until receiving a direct appointment as a Second Lieutenant, Aircraft Maintenance Officer in July, 1963. He was transferred to the Supply Function and served in all areas of Base Supply and Logistics, including over fifteen years in assignments of command positions. He was assigned Deputy Commander for Resources, 189th Tactical Airlift Group in July, 1988 and served in that position until transferred to Headquarters, Arkansas Air National Guard as Director of Resources in August, 1991. Brigadier General Thomey was assigned Assistant Adjutant General, Air, March 1, 1993 and was promoted to the grade of Brigadier General on September 23, 1994. He retired April 27, 1996.

Brigadier General Thomey has been active in the Arkansas Wing, Civil Air Patrol since 1975 involving all functions of that organization, specializing in search and rescue operations and is currently serving as Vice Wing Commander.

Brigadier General Thomey and his wife Catherine reside in Jacksonville, Arkansas. He has one son, Deane. Brigadier General Thomey served as the forty-first President National Guard Association of Arkansas 1981-82.

## **COLONEL MARY FRANCES "FRANKIE" SEARS**

Colonel Mary Frances "Frankie" Sears was born in Hot Spring County, Arkansas (Outside the city limits of Malvern). She graduated from Malvern High School, Malvern, Arkansas. She attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and received her Bachelor of Science in Social Psychology from Park College, Parkville, Missouri. She also attended Arkansas Baptist Hospital School of Nursing and Saint Vincent Infirmiry School of Nurse Anesthesia, both in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Colonel Sears received a direct commission into the Army Nurse Corps on March 12, 1976 with the Arkansas Army National Guard. Her key assignments have included Operating Room Nurse, Operating Room Head Nurse, Clinical Nurse Anesthetist, Chief Nurse Anesthetist during the Persian Gulf War, Chief Nurse 148th Evacuation Hospital and Chief Nurse Detachment 4, State Area Command, Arkansas Army National Guard.

Colonel Sears' military education includes Army Medical Officer Basic Course, Army Medical Officer Advance Course, Command and General Staff College and United States Army War College.

She is a member of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, National Guard Association of the United States, Alumni Association of the United States Army War College, Arkansas Association of Nurse Anesthetist, American Association of Nurse Anesthetist, Past Chairperson Governor's Commission for Veterans' Affairs and Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee for National Cemeteries and Memorials.

Colonel Sears was instrumental in the organization of Operation Care 95 and 96, a National Guard and civilian community activity that provided a weekend of free medical care to thousands of homeless and medically underserved citizens of Arkansas.

Colonel Sears is married to Don Sears. They have three children, Roni Bowman (Member of the Arkansas Air National Guard), Todd Sears (Member of the Arkansas Army National Guard) and Nichole Sears. She served as the forty-second President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1982-83.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT L. BYRD**

Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Byrd was born in Georgiana, Alabama. He graduated from Little Rock Senior High School in 1947. He also attended Little Rock Junior College from 1948 to 1949.

Lieutenant Colonel Byrd began his military career by enlisting as a private in the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 1948. He served in the Marine Corps Reserve until February of 1950. In March of 1950 he joined the Arkansas Army National Guard. He was ordered to active duty in December of 1950 and continued on active duty until December, 1952. In January, 1953 he joined the Arkansas Air National Guard. He attended the United States Air Force Pilot Training Program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on October 13, 1954 and awarded his pilot's wings. In July, 1969 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He was assigned Deputy Commander, Operations, 189th Tactical Fighter Group in May, 1974.

Lieutenant Colonel Byrd's military education includes: U.S. Army Leadership School; U.S. Air Force Aviation Cadet Pre-flight Training Class 55-B; U.S. Air Force Pilot Training; U.S. Air Force Flying Safety Officers Course, University of Southern California, 1962; U.S. Air Force Command and Staff College and U.S. Armed Forces Industrial College.

Lieutenant Colonel Byrd's served in the Arkansas Air National Guard from January 1955 to 1984. His civilian assignments included Air Technician Flying Training Instructor, October, 1956 and he was appointed Air Commander in 1976. Lieutenant Colonel Byrd is a Command Pilot with over 7,000 hours of flying time. He flew the T-33, F/RF-80, B/RB-57, F/RF 101, KC-135, T-6, T-28, C-47, C-45, B-26, T-29, and the C-131 airframes.

Lieutenant Colonel Byrd is a member of the Order of Daedalians, the National Guard Association of the United States, the National Guard Association of Arkansas, Past President of the Air Force Association, D.D. Terry Chapter, the Retired Officers Association, American Legion and Lakewood United Methodist Church Youth Councilor.

Lieutenant Colonel Byrd resides in North Little Rock with his wife, the former Colleen Swann. They have two sons, Robert, Jr. and Wesley. He retired from military service in August, 1984. He served as the forty-third President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1983-84.

## **COLONEL TOM WARNER THOMAS**

Colonel Tom Warner Thomas was born on July 21, 1948 at Jonesboro, Arkansas. He began his military career in 1969 enlisting in the United States Army. He attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1970 and was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Infantry. He served as a Platoon Leader, Executive Officer and Company Commander in Vietnam with the First Air Cavalry Division during 1971-72 and was promoted to First Lieutenant on August 14, 1971.

Colonel Thomas joined the Arkansas Army National Guard in July, 1972, commissioned First Lieutenant, Infantry, serving as Weapons Platoon Leader, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate). He served as Executive Officer and Detachment Commander, Detachment 1, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate) from March, 1974 to January, 1976 and Support Platoon Leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry January 1976 to July 1977. In November 1977 he was promoted to Captain and assigned S-3 Air, Assistant Operations Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry. He was reassigned as Combat Support Company Commander, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry in 1982 and Adjutant, S-1 during 1983 and 1984. On November 1, 1984 he was promoted to Major, Infantry and assigned as Battalion Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry. He served as Assistant State Maintenance Officer, State Area Command, 1987 and Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanic General Foreman, State Area Command, 1988-89. On August 21, 1989 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned Civil Affairs Officer, S-5, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Little Rock, Arkansas. He was reassigned Executive Officer, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate), July 1990 to March 1992. In March 1992 he was appointed Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, Malvern, Arkansas. During March 1994 he was assigned Executive Officer, Installation Support Unit, Comp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Colonel Thomas' military education includes U.S. Army Officer Candidate Course, 1970; U.S. Army Jungle Operations, 1971; Airmobility School, 1974; Airborne/Jump School, 1975; Pathfinder School, 1975, Infantry Commanders and Staff Refresher Course, 1976; Infantry Officer Advanced Course, 1977; Infantry Combat Leaders Course, 1977; Military Personnel Officer Course, 1978; Joint Firepower Control Course, 1979; Command and General Staff College, 1982 and Field Artillery Refresher Course, 1984.

Colonel Thomas' awards and decorations include Bronze Star with First Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device for Valor, Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Seven Oak Leaf Clusters and "V" Device for Valor, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with One Hour Glass Device, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Vietnam Service Ribbon with Three Campaign Stars, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Valorous Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Airborne Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, The Adjutant General's Outstanding Unit Commander Award and the National Meritorious Service Award.

Colonel Thomas resides in Searcy, Arkansas. He served as the forty-fourth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, 1984-85.

## **COLONEL GENE MCVAY**

Colonel Gene McVay is Commander of the 188th Support Group at the 188th Fighter Wing, Fort Smith, Arkansas. He directs the activities of approximately 350 personnel assigned to five subordinate squadrons and flights including Personnel, Engineering, Security, Communications and Services.

Colonel McVay was born March 15, 1942 in Mountain Home, Arkansas and graduated from Mountain Home High School in 1961. He received an Associate of Arts Degree from Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas and a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Aviation from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Air University's Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.

After graduating from high school, Colonel McVay enlisted in the United States Air Force and was trained as an Intelligence Analyst at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. Following nine months training he was assigned to Wakkanai, Japan. His next assignment was at the National Security Agency near Washington, D. C.

In 1965 Colonel McVay was honorably discharged from the Air Force and entered college. He was then commissioned in the Arkansas Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserves in 1967. In June of that year, he began Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma and received training in the T-41, T-37 and T-38 aircraft. He received his wings in June of 1968 during the height of the Vietnam conflict. Colonel McVay volunteered for 24 months active duty to help alleviate a critical pilot shortage. He was assigned to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California where he flew the C-141 "Starlifter". Colonel McVay became the only First Lieutenant Aircraft Commander in the unit and flew 50 combat missions in Southeast Asia before returning to the Arkansas Air National Guard in 1970. Back in Arkansas, Colonel McVay began flying the T-33 when the unit received notice of an aircraft conversion from the FR-84 to the F-101 "Voodoo". He became the first combat ready RF-101 pilot in the unit and was subsequently upgraded to Instructor Pilot while still a First Lieutenant.

As a Captain he became a Flight Commander in the 184th Fighter Squadron while flying the F-100 "Super Saber". He also served as Chief of Safety, Chief of Command and Control, Chief of Plans, Deputy Commander for Operations and Operations Group Commander before assuming his current responsibilities. Colonel McVay flew the C-12, the F-4 "Phantom" and the F-16 "Fighting Falcon" as an instructor pilot. Most recently he served as the first Air National Guard Provisional Wing Commander for Pacific Air Forces premier training exercise "Cope Thunder".

Colonel McVay served as President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas and was a former President of the Fort Smith Chapter of the Air Force Association. In addition, he served as Chairman for the Arthritis Television Auction, member Sparks Regional Hospital Advisory Trustee Board and very active in many charitable organizations. He has held positions on the County Election Board, Tax Equalization Board and currently serves on the County Parks and Recreation Board.

Colonel McVay is a Command Pilot with over 4,000 jet flying hours. His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Colonel McVay is married to the former Magda Bostoen of Rouselare, Belgium. They have one daughter, Marcene. He served as the forty-fifth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1985-86.

## **MAJOR RICHARD STANLEY PEEBLES**

Major Richard Stanley Peebles was born in Arkansas on May 15, 1943. He graduated from Arkansas State University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

Major Peebles began his military career by enlisting in the Army National Guard on February 3, 1964. After attending Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, he was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Infantry on April 3, 1965. He served in several positions as a lieutenant including Platoon Leader, Infantry Company Executive Officer and General's Aide. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on December 1, 1967. Promoted to Captain on November 16, 1971 he served as Company Commander, Liaison Officer and Recruiting & Retention/Equal Opportunity Officer. From February 11 to October 31, 1977 he served as S-3 Air, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, Searcy, Arkansas. From November 1, 1977 to February 17, 1978 he served as the S-1, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, Searcy, Arkansas. He transferred to Headquarters, 39th Infantry Brigade, Little Rock, Arkansas on February 18, 1978 serving as Assistant S-1. On October 1, 1978 he was reassigned as the S-4, 39th Infantry Brigade and promoted to Major on October 8, 1978. On February 26, 1980 he was reassigned as Operations and Training Staff Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas Army National Guard, North Little Rock, Arkansas. He was reassigned to 39th Infantry Brigade on September 21, 1981 as the Assistant S-3. On April 14, 1982 he became the Brigade S-1 and on August 20, 1983 the S-2, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Little Rock, Arkansas. Major Peebles last assignment was Finance Officer, Company A (Admin), 39th Support Battalion, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Major Peebles Military Education included: Officer Candidate School, Ft. Benning, Georgia, 1965 and the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, 1978.

Major Peebles awards and decorations included: the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hourglass device, the Army Service Medal, and the Arkansas Service Medal with diamond device.

In his civilian career Major Peebles is a Certified Public Accountant in Little Rock, Arkansas. He is married, has two children and resides with his family in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Major Peebles served as the forty-sixth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1986-87.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD L. HALL**

Lieutenant Colonel Richard L. Hall was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Sylvan Hills High School in North Little Rock. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Lieutenant Colonel Hall's military education includes completion of the Officer Basic Course, the Squadron Officers School, the Air Command and Staff College and the Contingency Engineering Course (AFIT) as an Honor Graduate.

Lieutenant Colonel Hall began his military career on September 11, 1969 by enlisting in the Arkansas Air National Guard. He was appointed Second Lieutenant on June 18, 1970, attended United States Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona and returned to the 189th Tactical Reconnaissance Group as a RF-101C Reconnaissance Pilot. He transitioned to the KC-135A Aircraft in 1976 and retired from flying in 1978 with over 1,000 hours and a Senior Pilot rating. He transferred to the 189th Civil Engineering Squadron where he served until December 1990, leaving the unit as Squadron Commander.

Lieutenant Colonel Hall is past President, National Guard Association of Arkansas, where he held other elected and appointed offices. He is a former United States Air Force Association Liaison Officer Commander for Arkansas. He is a Life Member of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, the National Guard Association of the United States, Air Force Association and the Civil Engineers Association. He was inducted in the Arkansas Academy of Mechanical Engineers at the University of Arkansas in 1991. He is active in church and a member of the Gideons International.

Lieutenant Colonel Hall resides in Tucson, Arizona with his wife, the former Sharon Lee Farrell who is past President of the Auxiliary to the National Guard Association of Arkansas. They have two married children, David S. and Melissa A., both residing in Tuscon. Lieutenant Colonel Hall served as the forty-seventh President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1987-88.

## **COLONEL STEVE COLE RUCKER**

Colonel Steve Cole Rucker was born on June 11, 1949 at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He graduated from Pine Bluff High School in 1967. Colonel Rucker received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1971 graduating from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, commissioned Second Lieutenant, Armor.

Colonel Rucker served on active duty with the United States Army from 1971 to 1976. His assignments while on active duty included Platoon Leader, Troop B, 3d Squadron, 1st Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division and Executive Officer, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on October 9, 1972. He served as Support Platoon Leader, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division; Support Platoon Leader, 1st Squadron, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment and Executive Officer, Company D, 1st Squadron, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment. He was promoted to Captain on June 9, 1975 and served as S-3 Air, 1st Squadron, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Colonel Rucker joined the Arkansas Army National Guard on October 15, 1976 and was commissioned Captain, Infantry, serving as Assistant S-3, 39th Infantry Brigade. In September, 1978 he was reassigned as Tactical Officer, Arkansas Military Academy. During 1980 he served as Aide-de-Camp, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Arkansas Army National Guard. In 1981 he was reassigned as Operations and Training Staff Officer. He was promoted to Major, Infantry on August 1, 1981 and assigned as Transportation Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas Army National Guard. From December, 1981 to June, 1982 he was assigned as S-3, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry.

In June, 1982 Colonel Rucker joined the full time ranks of the Arkansas Army National Guard in the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program becoming the Marksmanship Training Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Arkansas Army National Guard. He served as Environmental Engineer, State Area Command, March to October, 1983 and S-2 / S-3, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 455th Transportation Battalion, October, 1983 to July, 1985. He was reassigned as Detachment Commander, State Area Command, July 1985 to August, 1986; Facility Management Officer, State Area Command August, 1986 to November, 1986 and Chief Facility Engineer, Detachment 2, State Area Command November, 1986 to August, 1987. Colonel Rucker was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on March 27, 1987 and assigned as Commander, 212th Signal Battalion August, 1987 to May, 1990. From May to August, 1990 he was reassigned as Facility Management Officer and from August, 1990 to April, 1991 he was reassigned as Commander, 212th Signal Battalion. In April, 1991 he became the Director, Installation Support Unit and in June, 1991, Executive Officer, Installation Support Unit. In November, 1992 he was named Deputy Commander, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate) and promoted to Colonel on December 1, 1992.

Colonel Rucker's military education includes Armor Officers Basic Course, 1971; Infantry officer Advanced Course, 1980; Command and General Staff College, 1983; Separate Infantry Brigade Refresher Course, 1988; Force Modernization Reserve Component Course, 1988; Mobile Subscriber Equipment Network Planner Course, 1990; United States Army War College, 1990 and Tactical Commander's Development Course, 1993.

Colonel Rucker's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters and Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters. Colonel Rucker served as the forty-eighth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1988-89.



## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES L. POLLNOW**

Lieutenant Colonel James L. Pollnow was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He graduated from Hartford Union High School in Hartford, Wisconsin. He also attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Lieutenant Colonel Pollnow began his military career in June, 1954, enlisting as a Private in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He served in the Signal Corps until 1956 and was promoted to Corporal. Lieutenant Colonel Pollnow joined the Arkansas Air National Guard in November, 1957 as a Specialist, E-4 and was soon promoted to Specialist, E-5 serving as a Communications Specialist. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Civil Engineering in April, 1962, Arkansas Air National Guard. From 1963 to 1968 he was promoted to First Lieutenant and Captain and served as Reconnaissance Technical Squadron Maintenance Officer. From 1968 to 1970 he served on active duty as a Civil Engineer with the United States Air Force as a Captain, Civil Engineer at March Air Force Base, California. From 1971 to 1976 he was reassigned as Maintenance Officer, Reconnaissance Technical Squadron. He was promoted to Major in 1976 and appointed Aircraft Maintenance Officer. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1978 and served as Commander, 189th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Arkansas Air National Guard from 1978 to 1990.

Lieutenant Colonel Pollnow's military education includes Squadron Officer School, 1968; Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 1969; Air Command and Staff College, 1974; Aircraft Maintenance Officer, 1977 and the Air War College, 1978.

Significant achievements include selection as the Arkansas Outstanding Unit Commander of the Year in 1979 and again in 1987. His fourteen military awards include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster and the Arkansas Commendation Medal.

During his 36 years of service, Lieutenant Colonel Pollnow accumulated a total of seven years of active duty. Since his retirement from the Arkansas Air National Guard, he has worked full time as a civilian for the Arkansas Army National Guard as a transportation specialist.

Lieutenant Colonel Pollnow's civilian career included many accomplishments. The holder of several patents and trademarks, he is listed in several editions of Who's Who in the South and Southwest. He is also a licensed Non Denominational Minister and frequent public speaker.

Lieutenant Colonel Pollnow is married to the former Sandra DeLong of Bryant, Arkansas and together they are the parents of seven children. He served on the board of directors of the National Guard Association of Arkansas for a total of 15 years. Lieutenant Colonel Pollnow served as the forty-ninth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, 1989-90.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD EARL SWAN**

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Earl Swan was born on October 11, 1956 in Arkansas. He graduated from Marked Tree High School in 1975. He attended Arkansas State University in 1977 and graduated from the University of New York State with the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1994.

Lieutenant Colonel Swan began his military career on February 19, 1975 enlisting as a Private in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He served as a Construction Specialist and was promoted to Sergeant. He attended Arkansas Military Academy Officer Candidate School and was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers on May 14, 1977. From May, 1977 to April, 1978 he served as Platoon Leader, Company C, 875th Engineer Battalion, Marked Tree, Arkansas. On May 13, 1980 he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He was reassigned as Reconnaissance Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 875th Engineer Battalion, Jonesboro, Arkansas on August 15, 1981. On September 1, 1982 he was assigned as Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 875th Engineer Battalion and promoted to Captain on May 18, 1983. He served as Battalion S-1, 875th Engineer Battalion from October 1, 1984 to April 5, 1988. On April 6, 1988 he was assigned to State Area Command, North Little Rock, Arkansas as Staff Management Officer. He was promoted to Major on August 7, 1989 and assigned as Mobilization Plans Officer, Detachment 1, State Area Command, Troop Command. On April 22, 1991 he was transferred to Headquarters, State Area Command and assigned as Training Staff Officer. He was transferred to Detachment 1, State Area Command, Troop Command on June 12, 1994 as S-4. On June 3, 1995 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and assigned as Executive Officer, 87th Troop Command, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, N. Little Rock, Arkansas. He was reassigned as Commander, 25th Support Detachment, Rear Tactical Operations Center, North Little Rock, Arkansas on October 2, 1995.

Lieutenant Colonel Swan's military education includes: Arkansas Military Academy Officer Candidate School, 1977; Engineer Officer Basic Course, 1978; Infantry Officer Basic Course, 1983; Engineer Officer Advanced Course, 1985 and Command and General Staff College, 1988.

Lieutenant colonel Swan's awards and decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal Fourth Award, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Medal, Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon and the Arkansas Service Ribbon Fourth Award.

Lieutenant Colonel Swan served as the fiftieth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1990-91.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES FRANCIS WROBLESKI**

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Francis Wrobleski was born at Omaha, Nebraska on January 28, 1932 the son of John J. Wrobleski, Sr. and Sophia R. Wrobleski. He attended the University of Omaha for two years and then graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1955 with the Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering.

Lieutenant Colonel Wrobleski began his military career upon completion of his baccalaureate degree in June 1955. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and received Primary Pilot Training at Marana Air Base, Arizona, March to September 1956; Basic Pilot Training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, October 1956 to April 1957 and KC-97 Transportation Training at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, April 1957 to July 1957. On June 12, 1958 he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He was released from Active Duty with the 70th Air Refueling Squadron, Strategic Air Command on September 16, 1960.

On April 22, 1961 Lieutenant Colonel Wrobleski was commissioned First Lieutenant with the Arkansas Air National Guard and assigned to the 123rd AB Group, Adams Field, Little Rock, Arkansas. He was promoted to Captain on June 12, 1962 serving as Air Operations Officer with the 123rd Group. On June 13, 1969 he was promoted to Major. He continued to serve as Air Operations Officer until October 1, 1972 when he was reassigned as Executive Support Staff Officer. On May 1, 1974 he was named Chief of Direct Support, Administrative Branch and on April 27, 1975, Civil Engineering Flight Command Staff Officer. On January 1, 1976 he was assigned as Commander, 189th Civil Engineering Flight and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on June 13, 1976. He was later appointed Commander, 189th Civil Engineering Squadron.

Lieutenant Colonel Wrobleski's military education included completion of the Squadron Officer School in 1965, the Air Command and Staff College in 1979, the Air War College Seminar and the Reserve Components National Security Course. His awards and decorations included: the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Small Arms Expert Rifle Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Wrobleski was married to Beverly J. Wrobleski and they resided in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Lieutenant Colonel Wrobleski served as the fifty-first President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1991-92.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE M. ROSS**

Lieutenant Colonel George M. (Mike) Ross was born in Paris, Arkansas. He graduated from County Line High School in Branch, Arkansas. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas.

Lieutenant Colonel Ross' military education includes completion of the Field Artillery Officers Course (Basic, Advanced, and Refresher), Command and General Staff College, Company/Battery Size Unit Commanders Course, Field Artillery Pre-Command Course, Brigade and Battalion Pre-Command Course, and Duke University Implementation of NEPA on Federal Lands and Facilities Course.

Lieutenant Colonel Ross began his military career on January 3, 1972 by enlisting in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He was appointed second lieutenant, field artillery, on May 1, 1976 upon graduation from the Arkansas Army National Guard Military Academy at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. Promotions to first lieutenant, captain, and major followed on April 30, 1979, September 1, 1981, and April 6, 1988. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on September 16, 1993 and presently commands the First Battalion, 142d Field Artillery, Arkansas Army National Guard. His full time position is Readiness Management Officer, Directorate of Plans, Operations and Training, Office of the Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Ross served as President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas from March 1992 to March 1993. He has served in numerous elected positions in American Legion posts to include Commander, Post #40, of which he is a charter member. He has served on national level committees and task forces working on legislative actions for modernizing Army National Guard units. He has been a member of the National Guard Association of the United States Fire Support Task Force which was primarily responsible for obtaining Interim Fire Support Application Software (IFSAS) and Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) for the Army National Guard. He currently serves as the Area IV Army representative on the Executive Board of Directors, National Guard Association of the United States.

He has also been active in coaching an 11 to 13 year-old basketball team and enjoys his favorite hobby which is playing the guitar, singing and performing at various functions.

Lieutenant Colonel Ross resides in North Little Rock, Arkansas, with his wife, Debbie. He has two children, Gina A. Ross and Billy J. Ross, who live in Charleston, Arkansas.

## **COLONEL GEORGE THOMAS LANDERS**

Colonel George Thomas Landers was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Little Rock Hall High School in 1965. Colonel Landers attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville graduating in May, 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He also attended the University of Central Michigan completing requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Personnel Management in 1975.

Colonel Landers began his military career in May, 1969, commissioned Second Lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Program at the University of Arkansas. He entered active duty in October, 1969 at Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), Mississippi, receiving training as a Personnel Officer. While on active duty he served at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, separating in September, 1974. He joined the 147th Fighter Interceptor Group, Ellington AB, Texas Air National Guard (ANG) in June, 1977. Transferred to the 189th Air Refueling Group, Arkansas ANG on August 1, 1978. He became a full time Air Technician in January, 1980 in the Technician Personnel Office, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, transferring militarily to the Arkansas Air National Guard State Headquarters. He became the first Air National Guard Personnel Officer to head the full time personnel office in September, 1986. He served in that capacity until transferred to the Executive Support Staff Officer position at Arkansas Air National Guard State Headquarters in February, 1993. Colonel Landers was promoted to the grade of Colonel on June 11, 1988.

Colonel Lander's military education includes the United States Air Force Air Command and Staff College, 1981 and the United States Air Force Air War College (Outstanding Graduate), 1988.

Colonel Landers is a member of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, the National Guard Association of the United States and the Air Force Association. He is married to the former Rhonda Shaffer, from Fayetteville, Arkansas who is a Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He has one child, Matthew T. Landers, born on February 24, 1979. Colonel Landers served as President, National Guard Association of Arkansas from March 1993 to March 1994.

## **MAJOR PHILIP L. ROSER**

Major Philip L. Roser was born at Carlinville, Illinois. He graduated from Westside High School at Jonesboro, Arkansas. Major Roser is a graduate of Arkansas State University and the University of the State of New York. His degrees include Associate and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Major Roser's military education includes completion of the Infantry, Engineer, and Chemical Basic Courses; the Infantry and Engineer Advanced Courses; Combined Arms and Services Staff School; Joint Fire Power Course; USACGSC Mobilization/Deployment Course, Joint Planning Operations Course and Command and General Staff College.

Major Roser began his military career on February 7, 1970 enlisting in the 875th Engineer Battalion, Arkansas Army National Guard. He held numerous enlisted positions in the 875th to include Squad leader, Platoon Sergeant, Company Operations Sergeant, Battalion Intelligence Sergeant and Battalion Training NCO and was promoted to the grade of Master Sergeant in 1981. He attended Officer Candidate School at the Arkansas Military Academy and was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Infantry on May 9, 1983. He was assigned as the Assistant S-3, Troop Command and was promoted to Captain on May 8, 1987. He served as the Headquarters Commandant, Troop Command; S-1, 39th Support Battalion and Mobilization Plans Officer for the Arkansas Army National Guard and was promoted to the rank of Major on August 30, 1992. He was assigned as Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 39th Infantry Brigade (Separate) on February 26, 1993. He is currently assigned to State Area Command as the Information Systems Program Officer for the Arkansas Army National Guard.

Major Roser is a past President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas (1994-95) and served on its board of directors from 1984 through 1996. He is a life member of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Major Roser resides in North Little Rock with his wife Linda. They have two children and two grandchildren.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD CLARK HALL**

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Clark Hall was born April 28, 1944 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma and due to his father's Air Force service lived in many states. He attended high school in Brownwood, Texas, Washington, D.C. and Goose Air Base, Canada. He was on the Dean's list while attending Arkansas State University and the university of Central Arkansas and a member of the National Honor Society, Gamma Beta Phi.

Lieutenant Colonel Hall's military career began February 1, 1965 when he enlisted in the 189th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Arkansas Air National Guard (ANG). After basic training and technical school at Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas he was assigned to the Supply Squadron as a materiel facilities specialist in the warehouse and was selected as a military technician in October 1965. He was recalled to Active Duty in January 1968 for the Pueblo Crisis and served at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas until being released in December 1968. He progressed through assignments of increasing responsibility to the position of Noncommissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) of Equipment Management and was promoted to Master Sergeant in 1978. He was selected to attend the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science and upon graduation in April 1980 was commissioned in the grade of Captain. When he returned to the technician force in September 1980 he was assigned as Management and Procedures Officer. As an additional duty he was selected as KC-135 Tanker Equipment Authority for the 13 Air National Guard tanker units for the National Guard Bureau. He was promoted to Chief of Supply, Assistant United States Property and Fiscal Office (USP&FO) (Property) and Lieutenant Colonel in March 1989. He was appointed to his present position of Commander, 189th Logistics Squadron in October 1993.

Lieutenant Colonel Hall is a graduate of the NCO Academy, Senior NCO Academy, Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff and the Air War College. Military awards include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three devices, National Defense Service Medal with one device, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with three devices, Air Force Longevity service Award with six devices, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two devices, Small Arms Expert Ribbon with one device, Air Force Training Ribbon with one device, the Arkansas Service Ribbon with five devices and the Air Force Excellence in Competition Bronze Rifle Badge. He was the recipient of a 1996 I.G. Brown Command Excellence Award presented by the ANG NCO Academy Graduates Association.

Lieutenant Colonel Hall is a life member of the National Guard Association of Arkansas and the National Guard Association of the United States. He is past vice president of the NCO Association of Arkansas and a life member of the National Rifle Association with master ranking in Hi Power and International Rifle. A 16 year member of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, he is the state stage craft journeyman trainer and certifier. He resides in North Little Rock, Arkansas with his wife, the former Val Wilhite from Biloxi, Mississippi, who is past president of both the NCO Association Auxiliary and the Auxiliary of the National Guard Association of Arkansas. They have two children, Mark and Sheila. Sheila is a Senior Airman in the 189th Mission Support Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Hall served as the fifty-fifth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas March 1995 to February 1996.

## **LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID THOMAS DORROUGH**

Lieutenant Colonel David Thomas Dorrough graduated from Arkansas Polytech College in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. He completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas, 1987.

Lieutenant Colonel Dorrough began his military career with the Reserve Officer Training Corps while attending college. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps on December 19, 1975, United States Army Reserve. On May 5, 1976 he joined the Arkansas Army National Guard, commissioned Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps and assigned as Platoon Leader, Company A, 212th Signal Battalion, Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on December 18, 1978. On January 14, 1982 he was promoted to Captain and assigned as Communications Electronics Staff Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 206th Field Artillery, West Memphis, Arkansas. He was transferred to Finance Distribution Officer, State Area Command, Arkansas Army National Guard, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas on March 1, 1983. Promoted to Major on August 1, 1988, he was reassigned as Comptroller, State Area Command, Arkansas Army National Guard. On March 1, 1990 he was reassigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 212th Signal Battalion, North Little Rock, Arkansas as Battalion Executive Officer. He was reassigned as Procurement Officer, State Area Command on February 1, 1991. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on July 1, 1994, he was reassigned as Battalion Commander, 937th Signal Battalion, Fayetteville, Arkansas on September 1, 1994.

Lieutenant Colonel Dorrough's military education includes: Signal Officer Basic Course, Fort Gordon, Georgia, 1976; Signal Officer Advanced Course, 1983; Military Comptroller Course, 1984; Finance Officer Advanced Course, 1985; Command and General Staff College, 1987, Quality Guard Senior Advisors Course, 1994 and Signal Battalion Commander Pre-command Course, Fort Gordon, Georgia, 1995.

Lieutenant Colonel Dorrough's awards and decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal Fourth Award, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Arkansas Service Ribbon Third Award, Arkansas Army National Guard Staff Identification Badge and the Arkansas Army National Guard Recruiter Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Dorrough is a Certified Public Account and serves as the full time Purchasing and Contracting Officer for the Arkansas Army National Guard. He served as the fifty-sixth President of the National Guard Association of Arkansas 1996-97.