

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MASTER SERGEANT  
JAMES C. DEAN**

Inducted 23 August 2007



Master Sergeant James C. "Jimmy" Dean joined the 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in September 1954. In 1962, he was deployed to Laos in support of Operation White Star. As the team sergeant for Field Team 30, he helped train Laotian military personnel to defeat the Pathet Lao, a communist insurgent group. After returning to the United States, MSG Dean served in the 110th Reconnaissance Unit, stationed in Italy. Dean retired from the military in May 1966.

MSG Dean is perhaps best known for his work with the Special Forces Association, where he was a charter member and served as a past secretary/administrator for 18 years.

MSG Dean played a key role in establishing the original Special Forces Decade Club, and he was influential in changing the name from the Special Forces Decade Club to the Special Forces Association. He served two terms on the SFA executive board as secretary/administrator of the SFA, and he served as president of Chapters I and V and as secretary/treasurer of Chapter IX. Chapter X is known as the "Jimmy Dean" chapter. He was also influential in getting the SFA nonprofit status with the Internal Revenue Service and the State of North Carolina. MSG Dean directed the purchase of the memorial building and the grounds, where the SFA is located. He was also editor of *The Drop*, the quarterly publication of the SFA.

In 1995, he saw that the JFK Special Warfare Museum Association was required financial assistance, so he organized a group of volunteers to assist in the efforts to raise the needed funds. As the secretary and then vice president, he organized a bank-to-bank walk, raising more than \$130,000 for the museum.

For his efforts, MSG Dean was awarded the first Phillip Neri Award in 2002. On March 3, 2007, MSG Dean passed away after a long illness. He was a great friend, a mentor and a great administrator.