

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL
JOSEPH G. CINCOTTI**

Inducted August 2010



Colonel Joseph G. Cincotti was born November 19, 1937, in New York City. He graduated St. Francis Xavier Military Academy, winning the Latin medal and receiving 27 offers of college football scholarships. He attended Auburn University in Alabama, the University of Dayton in Ohio and the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a BS in psychology. In 1959, he played football with the Philadelphia Eagles.

COL Cincotti was commissioned as an Armor officer through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Scranton. He served as a platoon leader, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment at Fulda, Germany, and volunteered for duty in Vietnam, seeing action with I Corps, II Corps and III Corps from 1962-1963. He then completed the Foreign Area Officer training in Monterey, Calif., and in early 1964 took command of Company C, 2/50th Infantry (Mechanized), 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He returned to Vietnam in 1965 with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and commanded A Detachments 502 and 412, and served with IV Corps MIKE FORCE. Upon graduation from the Armor Advance Course in 1967, he was assigned to the Special Forces Activity Branch of the Combat Development Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.

In 1968, he served his third tour in Vietnam as S3, 1/505th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. He was seriously wounded by an exploding B-40 rocket in the Battle of the Lazy W and was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his gallantry, heroism and bravery. In 1969, he served as adviser to the Thai Army where he was instrumental in the establishment of airborne training for the Royal Thai Army. Following completion of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., he returned to Special Forces to assume command of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 1972-1974. From 1974-1976, he served as chief, Small Unit Tactics Division at Fort Knox, Ky. Cincotti commanded 2nd Battalion, 5th SF Group from 1977 to 1978; and as deputy commander, 7th SF Group from 1978-1980. He was the first ground force commander of Blue Light, commander of the last American unit in Iran before the fall of the Shah, the first SF counterterrorism unit and precursor to Delta Force.

COL Cincotti concluded 27 years of distinguished service as director and commandant of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, from 1983-1985. He formally synchronized the training in Phases I, II and III of the Special Forces Qualification Course. COL Cincotti's efforts brought together all Special Forces occupational specialty-skilled Soldiers to conduct full-spectrum Special Forces team operations during the six-week culmination exercise, Robin Sage.

COL Cincotti earned a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University, St. Louis, Mo., and was a graduate of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. At his death on April 28, 1995, COL Cincotti was senior vice president of marketing for C & C Contracting Services, a defense and security consulting firm. He married the former Lourdes Elizarde of San Francisco, Calif., who passed away in 2000. He has two sons; Joseph A. Cincotti, an actor and writer in Los Angeles, and Kevin D. Cincotti, an executive officer of research and development at Military Wraps, Inc., in Lumberton, N.C. He has a daughter, LTC Kim T. Cincotti, a Military Intelligence officer stationed at the Pentagon. He also has two grandchildren. His father, the late Joseph C. Cincotti, served in North Africa in World War II and as a civilian contractor in Vietnam.

COL Cincotti devoted himself to youth sports and took special interest in helping young people toward military careers.

His awards and decorations include the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Combat Infantryman Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge and numerous other American and foreign decorations.