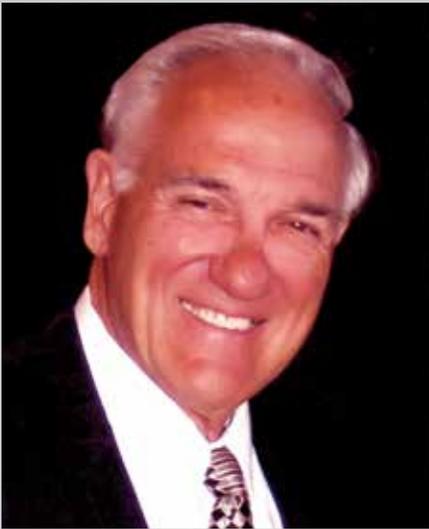


# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COMMAND SGT. MAJ.  
RAY L. LOVE**

Inducted 26 October 2017



Command Sergeant Major Ray L. Love is a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He enlisted in the Army in September 1948, as a private in the Infantry. Following basic training, he was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division in Japan. In 1950, he took part in the Inchon invasion as the 7th Infantry Division fought its way to the Yalu River in North Korea. At this time, the Chinese entered the Korean War and pushed the 7th Infantry Division south all the way to Pusan, Korea. In 1951, Command Sgt. Maj. Love left Korea and was assigned to the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Center in Fort Riley, Kansas.

In 1952, the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Center moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Command Sgt. Maj. Love was transferred to the newly formed Special Forces, assigned to Field Team A #16. Upon completion of his training, he was sent to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Bad Tolz, Germany. During his four year tour, Command Sgt. Maj. Love served as a downhill and cross-country master skiing instructor. In 1956, Command Sgt. Maj. Love and his family moved to Washington, D.C., to be closer to Walter Reed due to their daughter's failing health.

In 1957, he returned to Special Forces and was selected for a three year tour at Fort Bragg, where he would help stand up the Free Fall School. During his tenure, he excelled at free fall and was often selected to perform demonstrations for visitors. His actions and contributions helped form what we now call HALO and HAHO. Command Sgt. Maj. Love also played a significant role in the training of the STRAC Parachute Team, which was later renamed the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team. In 2011, Command Sgt. Maj. Love was invited to the Military Free Fall Committee at Yuma, Arizona, to share his free fall experience and extensive knowledge with the cadre.

From 1960 to 1966, Command Sgt. Maj. Love was again assigned to Germany, however, his actions during that time are still classified. Following this assignment, he was transferred to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as a military instructor for the West Point parachute team and the ski team. Under his careful tutelage, the West Point parachute team went on to win the College Championship trophy in 1967 and 1968 in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Command Sgt. Maj. Love was promoted to command sergeant major in 1968, and volunteered for a year-long tour in Vietnam with the 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry Regiment. On Nov. 30, 1970, Command Sgt. Maj. Love retired from the Army after 22 years of dedicated service.

Command Sgt. Maj. Love continues to serve the Special Forces as an active member, and the president of Chapter 22 of the Special Forces Association. He specializes in making wooden bowls and other items which he sells, then donates all of the proceeds back to the SFA to help Special Forces families in need. He has contributed several thousand dollars over the years to help the Special Forces community.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with oak-leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Japan), UN Service Medal, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, Army of Occupation Medal (Germany), Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Good Conduct Medal (5 Awards). He also has the Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd Award), Master Parachutist Badge, Master Free Fall Badge and the Special Forces Tab.

Command Sgt. Maj. Love lives in Pine Top, Arizona, and is married to the former Patricia J. Miller. They have six children.