

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



SERGEANT FIRST CLASS MELVIN MORRIS

Inducted 31 October 2014



Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris was born in Okmulgee, Okla., on Jan. 7, 1942. In 1959, he joined the 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma National Guard. He volunteered for active duty and in 1961 completed the Special Forces Qualification Course.

Highlights of Sgt. 1st Class Morris' military career include two deployments to Vietnam, working with the Mobile Strike Force Force (MIKE). During his first tour, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his valorous actions near Chi Lang on Sept. 17, 1969. While commanding the 3rd Company, 3rd Bn., IV Mobile Strike Force, then-Staff Sgt. Morris led an advance across enemy lines to retrieve a fallen comrade and single-handedly destroyed an enemy force that was entrenched in a series of bunkers and had pinned down his battalion. Staff Sgt. Morris was shot three times as he ran back toward friendly lines with the American casualties, but did not stop until he reached safety. Morris was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism during the battle. After receiving the award, he returned to Vietnam for his second tour. Morris remained with Special Forces, serving in various assignments until 1982. In May 1985, he retired at Fort Hood, Texas, and now resides in Cocoa, Fla., where he spends his time fishing and bowling.

Morris' awards include the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for Valor and one oak-leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal Silver with one Loop, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one campaign star, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" device and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class. He also earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral "3," Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral "4," Special Forces Tab and the Vietnamese Parachutist Badge.