

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COLONEL  
DONALD JON SOLAND**

Inducted 10 July 2008



Colonel Donald Jon Soland was born on his family's farm in Nauvoo, Illinois. He chose to pursue a career in the United States Army when he enrolled at Texas A&M University. He graduated a distinguished military graduate from Texas A&M Corps of Cadets with a bachelor of arts in history and was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry in 1959. He later received a master of arts in international relations from the University of Texas at Austin.

Highlights of COL Soland's 30-year military career include company commander, 2nd Infantry Division, Augsburg, Germany; Vietnamese Ranger Advisor; operations officer, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry; commander, 173rd Airborne Brigades Task Force Talon; executive officer, 10th Special Forces Group European detachment; deputy commander, 1st Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. He was also a past president of the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and a distinguished member of the 1st Special Forces Regiment.

COL Soland's awards include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Bronze Star with "V" Device for valor and four OLCs, Meritorious Service Medal with OLC, Air Medal seven OLCs, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 7 campaign stars, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. He also earned the Expert Infantryman Badge; Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger and Special Forces tabs, and the German, French and Royal Thai Army parachutist badges.

COL Soland is survived by his widow, Helga, and two daughters, Michelle S. Oxford (the spouse of Colonel John Oxford) and Nicole E. Soland.