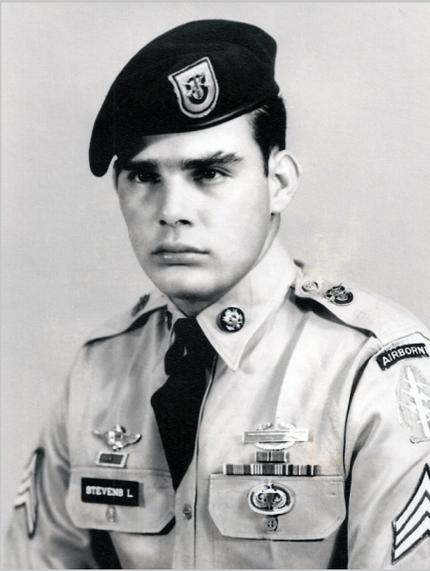


# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MASTER SERGEANT  
LOWELL W. STEVENS**

Inducted May 2011



Lowell W. Stevens was born July 8, 1941, in Putney, W.Va. He enlisted in the Army in July 1959, completing basic and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He graduated from Airborne School in 1960, and six years later, he was a master parachutist. From December 1959 to May 1963, he served in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

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In May 1963, Stevens volunteered for Special Forces training, graduating in November 1963 as a heavy-weapons leader. Assigned to the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), located on Okinawa, he deployed on a six-month mission to South Vietnam from June to December 1964.

In September 1965, Stevens was reassigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in South Vietnam. He deployed for a total of 71 months with the 5th SF Group to Vietnam. His duties included serving 23 months on various Special Forces operational detachment – alphas, or SFOD-As, as a heavy-weapons leader and intelligence sergeant; 30 months with Military Assistance Command Vietnam - Studies and Observations Group, or MACV-SOG, as a reconnaissance team leader and airborne controller; 16 months as company commander of a Mobile Strike Force, or Mike Force; and four months as an instructor at the MACV Recondo School.

In 1972, following service in Vietnam, Stevens was reassigned to the 1st SF Group on Okinawa, this time for 18 months. In April 1974, he returned to the 5th SF Group, Fort Bragg, N.C., where he performed the duties of team sergeant on various SFOD-As. For three years, Stevens worked as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 5th SF Group's Special Projects Branch. In that capacity, he deployed on numerous missions in support of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, assessing security at nuclear fuel-processing facilities and power plants. Stevens also served as team sergeant on Blue Light, the Army's counterterrorist unit prior to SFOD-D.

After retiring from the Army on March 1, 1980, as a master sergeant, Stevens ran range control at Camp Mackall. He took an intense interest in the history of Camp Mackall, and for more than 27 years, he endeavored to learn the rich history of the "home of the Airborne during World War II." He said many times that his service in Vietnam and his time at Camp Mackall defined his life and provided a degree of contentment that few men ever realized.

On Sept. 1, 2010, Stevens retired from civil service on Fort Bragg with more than 47 years of federal service. His awards and decorations include the Silver Star Medal (three awards), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (six awards, one with "V" device), Purple Heart Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (three awards, one with "V" device), Army Commendation Medal (three awards, one with "V" Device), Good Conduct Medal (six awards), Vietnam Service Medal (with 16 campaigns — out of a total of 17 awarded for the entire Vietnam War), Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Master HALO Badge and Presidential Unit Citation (for service with MACV-SOG).

Stevens passed away on Jan. 26, 2011. He is survived by his wife of more than 35 years, Emiko; his son, Lowell Jr.; his daughters, Natalie and Cheryl; two grandsons, Chance Palmer and Brandon Stevens; and two granddaughters, Brooke Stevens and Chasity Palmer, all of Fayetteville; and his sister, Frances Stevens James of Thomson, Ga.