



## **COL (Ret) Joel E. Bonner, Jr.**



Colonel Joel E. "Pete" Bonner is recognized for more than 46 years of distinguished service in the Armed Forces, Federal Government, and the civilian community. He attended North Texas Agriculture College from 1939 to 1941 where he was active in the Corps and on the athletic field, participating in football, basketball, and track. After attending Navy Flight Training in 1942,

he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and designated a Naval Aviator in January of 1943. Colonel Bonner also attended Amphibious Warfare School in 1949, Command and Staff College in 1958 and received his B.S. in Military Science in 1961 from the University of Maryland.

Colonel Bonner participated in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He received many awards including the **Legion of Merit with Combat V and Gold Star, Distinguished Flying Cross**, Air Medal with Seven Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm. Following the Vietnam War, Colonel Bonner was assigned to Legislative Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps until retirement. He retired June 30, 1971 as a Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps.

Subsequent to his retirement, he held the position of Deputy Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. From January 1972 until May 1981, Colonel Bonner was a member of the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations. His primary responsibility was Defense Appropriations. He also became Minority (Republican) Staff Director. He was assigned Majority Staff Director for Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in January 1981. From June 1981 to August 1983 Colonel Bonner was assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Financial Management. Then from August 1983 to December 1989, he was Manager of Washington Engineering Operations, Hughes Aircraft Company.

Colonel Bonner resides with his wife Joanne in Alexandria, Virginia. They have three children and two grandchildren.

## Obituary

**THE HONORABLE JOEL EDWARD BONNER JR. (“Pete”)**, of Fort Belvoir, VA, died peacefully on January 13, 2016. He was a career aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps, a staff member for the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, an Assistant Secretary of the Army, and an executive with Hughes Aircraft Company.

Mr. Bonner was a long-time resident of Alexandria, VA, before moving to Fort Belvoir with his beloved wife of 67 years, Joanne (Healy). Mr. and Mrs. Bonner have three children: Suzanne Romatowski (Peter), Joel Edward III, and Nancy Tierney (James), and four grandchildren: Catherine and Anne Romatowski, and Sarah and Matthew Tierney.

Mr. Bonner was born on March 23, 1922, in Dallas, TX, to Joel Edward Sr. and Marion Jackson Bonner. He graduated from Waco (TX) High School, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Maryland.

After joining the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, he flew 116 combat missions in the Pacific Theater with the first Marine Corps single-engine night fighter squadron. He later flew 92 combat missions in Korea and 29 combat missions in Vietnam. He received numerous combat awards, including the Legion of Merit with Combat V and Gold Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Seven Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

In 1971, following his retirement as a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Bonner worked for 10 years on the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee. There, he served in several roles relating to defense appropriations, including Chief Counsel and Staff Director.

In 1981, he was nominated by and served the Reagan Administration as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management, Logistics, and Installations. In 1983, he became the Manager of Washington Engineering Operations for Hughes Aircraft Company. He retired from Hughes in December 1989.

In 1999, Mr. Bonner was honored by induction into the prestigious “Golden Eagles,” an exclusive association of “Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators.” Earlier, in 1992, he was inducted into the University of Texas at Arlington’s Hall of Honor, established by the University’s Military Science Department for outstanding contributions to our country.

For many years, Mr. and Mrs. Bonner lived in the Belle Haven area of Alexandria, where he was a member and avid golfer at the Belle Haven Country Club. In 2004, they moved to The Fairfax in Fort Belvoir, where they enjoyed an active life with many dear friends and nearby family.

Mr. Bonner will be laid to rest on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 10:45 a.m. at the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel. Interment will follow at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, 875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 225, Arlington, VA 22203.

Service Information

Cemetery: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA

Funeral Service: Thursday, May 12, 2016, 10:45 a.m.

Fort Myer Old Post Chapel

204 Lee Avenue

Fort Myer, VA 22211-1199

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