



COL (Ret) Henry G. Creel, Jr.



Colonel Henry “Grady” Creel, Jr. is recognized for a lifetime of distinguished service to the military, the Fort Worth community, and the nation. He attended North Texas Agricultural College from 1938 to 1940 and completed a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Texas

A&M in 1942. He was commissioned as an Engineer 2LT in the U.S. Army in May 1942 and was ordered to active duty with the 25th Armored Engineer Battalion at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. He served with that unit through five European campaigns as a Combat Engineer Company Commander. For his gallantry in action and meritorious service, he was awarded the **Silver Star** and two Bronze Stars. Captain Creel was released from active duty in December 1945, and he continued to serve his country in the U.S. Army Reserve. He culminated a distinguished 30-year career as Commandant, 4159th U.S. Army Reserve School, Fort Worth, Texas. Colonel Creel was awarded the Legion of Merit for distinguished service and retired in May 1972.

Colonel Creel has been engaged in his own business since 1965 as broker developer in land planning, commercial properties and investment building. He earned a tremendous reputation in municipal real estate development and planning and all types of civil engineering endeavors. As a consulting engineer, Colonel Creel and his firm made designs for major street, highway and land planning programs throughout North Texas. While Regional Director of Community Facilities for the Fort Worth region of the Housing and Home Finance Agency (1956-1965), he received the highest award bestowed by the HHFA for distinguished service. His citation was based on his "devotion to public service in supervising the complex and varied programs of community facilities in the region." Serving for many years in a leadership role for the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Fort Worth, he initiated a succession of progressive military programs. Under his guidance, the Chamber became fully involved in the Operation Transition Program of the U.S. Armed Forces, designed to make the transition between the military community and the civilian community much simpler and more pleasant for the separating serviceman. His advice and counsel was sought in many areas outside the military community, and his impact will be lasting significance.

Colonel Creel resides with his wife, the former Theda Belle Waddle in Fort Worth, Texas. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Silver Star Citation

Service: United States Army

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Division: II Corps

Action Date: Vietnam - January 20, 1970

Headquarters, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, General Orders No. 1909 (1970)

(Citation Needed) – SYNOPSIS: Second Lieutenant Gerald D. Attaway, United States Army, was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on January 20, 1970 while serving with the U.S. II Corps in Southeast Asia.

Obituary

Henry Grady Creel Jr., 84, a retired investor and professional civil engineer, died Monday, Aug. 21, 2006.

Funeral: 11:30 a.m. Saturday in the sanctuary of Broadway Baptist Church. Dr. Brett Younger and the Rev. William Love will officiate. Committal service: A private service will be held in Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Thompson's Harveson & Cole Funeral Home.

Memorials: His memory may be honored with a gift to The Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2811; or Broadway Baptist Church Endowment Fund, 305 W. Broadway, Fort Worth, Texas 76104.

Henry Grady Creel Jr. was born Dec. 4, 1921, in Dallas and graduated from Sunset High School and Texas A&M University. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European theater, during which time he was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with cluster and five campaign stars. He was inducted into the Military Hall of Honor at the University of Texas at Arlington and retired from the Army Reserve as a colonel and commandant of the USAR School in Fort Worth.

Mr. Creel was a civil engineer who served as city manager of Denton in the 1950s and later operated a civil engineering consulting practice in Fort Worth. He was a registered professional engineer and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, as well as various local professional organizations. He served as a consultant on many street improvement projects for the city of Fort Worth during the 1970s.

From his post in Denton in 1956, he moved to Fort Worth, where he assumed the position of director of community facilities for the Housing and Home Finance Agency (now HUD). There he oversaw funding for construction of many buildings on college campuses, including dormitories throughout the Southwest, such as Kinsolving at the University of Texas at Austin. He received the agency's Distinguished Service Award for his accomplishments while there.

He was also a real estate broker and developer and was involved in many projects, primarily commercial in nature. At one point, a well-known publisher asked him to write a book on commercial real estate development, but he modestly declined.

A member of the Texas A&M class of 1942, Mr. Creel supported many organizations and causes in his love for his alma mater. He served as president of the Denton County A&M Club, the Fort Worth A&M Club, was an endowed donor of the 12th Man Foundation, and funded and endowed scholarships at A&M for engineers, needy students and students from Tarrant County. He served as class agent for the Class of 1942.

He was a lifelong Baptist, having been baptized at Cockrell Hill Baptist Church. He served as a deacon and chairman of the deacons at First Baptist Church of Denton and a deacon at

Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth and was a member of the Longhorn Sunday School Class.

Among his other interests were gardening, investing, reading, traveling and learning about new things.

People who worked for him through the years often commented on the wealth of knowledge he possessed, frequently being heard to say, "I always learn something new from him."

He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Theda Belle Waddle Creel.

Survivors: His children, James A. Creel and his wife, Bonnie, and Martha Darwin; and grandchildren, Heather Darwin Templeton and her husband, Sam, Mary Katherine Stout and her husband, Stephen, Whitney Darwin, Diana Darwin and Matthew Creel.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dfw/name/henry-creel-obituary?id=16009127>