



LTC (Ret) CHARLES T. McDOWELL

Lieutenant Colonel McDowell, a former Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Arlington State College, is honored for his professional achievements during a long and illustrious career in the United States Army and for his service to his community and to the University of Texas at Arlington.

LTC McDowell began his military career as a ROTC cadet at John Tarleton Agricultural College in 1939. He attended the Agricultural and Mechanical college of Texas from 1941-1943. He graduated in 1943 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. After graduation he attended Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the U. S. Army. After commissioning, LTC McDowell was assigned to teach the ASTP Course at Fort Benning. He then attended the Basic Airborne Course, also at Fort Benning, and after completion was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division and the 11th Airborne Division. He additionally served with the 97th Infantry Division in Europe. His early assignments included various command positions from Platoon Leader to Battalion Commander. During later assignments LTC McDowell was a Professor, Tokyo Army College; 1946-1948 and was Commandant and Director; 1947-1948. From 1947-1949 he was Information and Education Officer for the Eight U. S. Army and later the 82nd Airborne Division. From 1955-1958 he was a Professor of Russian language, history, economics, geography, and political science in a classified joint military/civilian intelligence agency and Chief of the research division, 1956-1958. In 1959 LTC McDowell was an Instructor for the Command and General Staff College in Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Hawaii.

In addition to the Armor Officer Advanced Course at Fort Knox, KY, LTC McDowell has attended the Defense Language Institute, the Foreign Area Specialist Program, and the Defense Intelligence Course. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and of a two-year Soviet-East Europe Advanced Foreign Area Studies Program at the doctoral level. LTC McDowell received an MA Degree from Columbia University in 1953 and in 1956 a PHD from Texas A&M.

LTC McDowell came to Arlington State College now (UTA) as a Major in 1959 and was Assistant Professor of Military Science and Tactics. He was promoted to LTC and from 1960 to 1964 served as PMS&T. While at Arlington State College, LTC McDowell was sponsor of the Pistol Team, Rifle Team, the Sam Houston Rifles (drill Team), and the Cadet's Officers' Club. After Leaving Arlington State College he served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff prior to his retirement in 1965. During his assignment he was Intelligence Officer of the Airborne Command Post. LTC McDowell was a Master Parachutist and has been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the American Defense Service, American Campaign, European Campaign, and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medals, the WWII Victory, Army of Occupation Medals, the Korean Service, and the United Nations Medals. LTC McDowell has served as a Diplomatic Courier and USSR Specialist, as well as a Foreign Service Officer for the State Department in the former Soviet Union, Europe, Asia, and North Africa. Additionally, he was Senior Area Administrator for the Job Corps which entailed supervision of all centers in the United States between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains.

Dr. McDowell returned to Arlington State College as an Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages in 1966. He became an Associate Professor at University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) in 1969 and Professor in 1978. In 1970 Dr. McDowell became the Director of the Soviet and East European Center (now post-Soviet and East European Studies Center) at UTA, and from 1988 to 1991 served as Chairman, Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics. Dr. McDowell also served as Assistant to the President (1966-67) and Dean of Student Life (1967-1968) while at UTA. Dr. McDowell has served on numerous committees as well as the Faculty Council and Faculty Senate. He sponsored a number of student activities including Alpha Phi Omega (national "service" society), Alpha Chi (national scholastic society), The Soviet and East European Club, and the Student Congress. Dr. McDowell was selected as a member of Outstanding Educators in America in 1972 and was UTA Outstanding Teacher for 1973-1974. He has been elected four times as the individual UTA candidate for the Piper Award which recognizes the 10 outstanding professors in the state and was listed in the Directory of American Scholars in 1978.

During the past 25 years, Dr. McDowell has made numerous weekly platforms, TV, radio or service club appearances concerning the Soviet Union, People's Republic of China, and subjects related primarily to Eastern Europe. Dr. McDowell is an author and co-author of many articles, documents, and books, including classified government documents concerning the Soviet Union. He drafted part of the UTA "Handbook for Operational Procedures". He is author of numerous book reviews published by the Dallas Morning News and has been editor of many classified documents. As Director of the Center for Post Soviet and East European Studies, Dr.

McDowell has served as either chief translator or as editor on projects conducting non-classified technical, industrial, and scientific translation both from English to Russian and from Russian to English. He also translated numerous industrially classified documents for business organizations attempting to establish joint ventures with countries in the former USSR.

Dr. McDowell is a member of many professional organizations and is active in community affairs, such as the Kiwanis Club and church work. He was president of the Arlington Good Times Corps from 1977 to 1981. Dr. McDowell has over 60 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America and was the first Eagle Scout in San Saba, TX. He has served as Course Director for several International Woodland Badges and has received the Silver Beaver Award for "Distinguished Service to Boyhood". Dr. McDowell was married for 20 years to Mary Frances McDowell. The father of two children has two grandchildren.

Obituary

Dr. Charles T. McDowell, COL USA (RET), 85, passed away Sunday, July 8, 2007. When asked to describe Charles McDowell, General W. C. Westmoreland wrote that he was "one of the few outstanding officers that I know." This was an apt description of a gallant, warm-hearted, and highly accomplished man who touched uncountable lives. During his 85 years, McDowell met six U.S. Presidents, traveled to Russia over 55 times, and positively influenced hundreds of students, colleagues, and friends.

Professor McDowell was born on Nov. 23, 1921, to Jesse Calvin McDowell and Alva Lange in Twin Falls, Idaho. After graduating from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science, he earned a Master of Arts at Columbia University and a Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. He was also a graduate of the Defense Language Institute, the Armor Advanced Officer Course, the Command and General Staff College, various intelligence courses, and a two-year Soviet–East European Advanced Foreign Area Studies Program at the doctoral level.

After receiving his commission, McDowell fought in the European Theater of World War II, where his early assignments ranged from platoon leader to battalion commander. A master parachutist, he jumped behind enemy lines as part of Operation Market Garden. At the conclusion of the war in Europe, McDowell served in the occupation forces in Japan, where his staff assignments included Commandant and Director of the Tokyo Army College and Information and Education Officer for the Eighth U.S. Army.

Later, he was a professor of Russian language, history, economics, geography, and political science; Chief of the Research Division for a classified joint military/civilian intelligence agency; and an instructor at the Command and General Staff College in Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Hawaii. He also served as Professor of Military Science at the University of Texas at Arlington (then Arlington State College).

Prior to his retirement, McDowell served the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Intelligence Officer of the Airborne Command Post. In that role, which often involved flying with the President of the United States, McDowell was the custodian of the Nuclear Football. In addition to the awards typical for World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam Conflict, he earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

After playing a key role in the establishment of the Job Corps program, McDowell was invited to return to the University of Texas at Arlington, where he served consecutively as Assistant to President Jack Woolf and Dean of Student Life. There, he was Professor, Chairman of the Department of Modern Languages, and Director of the Center for Post-Soviet and East European Studies, which he founded. At UTA, he was the first chairman of the Faculty Senate (subsequently reelected six times) and sponsor of Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Chi Honor Society, the Soviet and East European Club, and the Student Congress.

On multiple occasions, he was selected as an Outstanding Educator of America, UTA Outstanding Teacher, and the recipient of the UTA Chancellor's Council Award for Outstanding Teaching. In 2000, McDowell was inducted into the UTA Military Science Hall of Honor.

Throughout the course of his life, McDowell made numerous TV and radio appearances concerning Russia, Eastern Europe, and the People's Republic of China. He was the author or co-author of numerous book reviews, articles, documents, and books, including classified government materials concerning the Soviet Union. He was chief translator or editor on many projects conducting technical, industrial, and scientific translation from English to Russian and Russian to English.

He was the first Eagle Scout in San Saba County, a lifelong leader in the Boy Scouts of America, and a 41-year member of the Arlington Kiwanis Club. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Francis McDowell, and his daughter, Cynthia Kathleen Stewart.

Survivors include his son, Charles Patrick McDowell; grandchildren, Charles Cale McDowell and Angela Kathleen McDowell; and he will also be missed by his in-laws, nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues.