

Ferguson, Michael Jeromy (Mike), 2nd Platoon

11 August 1945 - 25 January 2002

Dallas Ft Worth Nat'l Cemetery, TX



Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Ferguson of Lakewood, California and later Dallas, Texas was with the Marine Corps from June 7, 1967 until June 30, 1989. Mike was married to Cheryl L. Sears, 26 Nov 1967, right after TBS. He passed away on January 25, 2002.

Michael J. Ferguson was born on August 11, 1945 in Bedford, England. His father was a radio gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, and his mother was an English citizen. They married and she & Mike came to the USA on the RMS Queen Mary through Ellis Island. Mike grew up in Lakewood, CA. He received an NROTC scholarship and chose to attend USC for his college education. Mike met Cheryl in Lakewood, who was a friend of his sister. A few days after basic school graduation, they married in Long Beach, CA.

Mike served in the USMC for 22 years and retired a LtCol in 1989. His military career took him to 5th Tanks, Camp Pendleton, Vietnam on the USS Ranger, MCRD San Diego, Ft Knox Armor School, 2nd Tanks Camp LeJeune, Supply Depot Albany, GA; Israel & Egypt as a UN Sinai Observer, CO of 3rd Tanks Twenty-nine Palms, CA; I & I Rochester NY, IG Hdqtrs, USMC, and lastly the senior Marine commander over the Armor School at Ft Knox. The highlight of his career was taking over as CO of 3rd Tank Battalion at the MCAGCC. He also enjoyed travelling the world with the IG team.

When the gulf war began after Mike's retirement, he wrote the Commandant asking to return to service, but he was denied his request because they were using the reserves. Upon his retirement he relocated to Long Beach, CA and worked for Iron Mountain Data Security as Branch Manager & General Manager. Mike and Cheryl have two daughters, 4 grandchildren and one on the way. He relocated to Lewisville, TX in 1999, when triplet grandchildren were born.

Mike died at the age of 56 after a valiant fight with cancer. After Mike's passing, many of his previous tank school students and fellow tankers wrote to our family telling of his professionalism and the training they'd received had helped them in battle. It was a privilege to hear how Mike had impacted the lives of others. He was a man of integrity, honor and outstanding character. He amazed our family with his wisdom and sense of humor in all situations throughout life.

USMC Resume:

USC (Trojan) NROTC Marine Corps option,
The Basic School Class 1-68 Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon, Jun-Nov 1967,
5th Tanks, Camp Pendleton,
Vietnam on the USS Ranger,
MCRD San Diego,
Ft Knox Armor School,
2nd Tanks Camp LeJeune,
Supply Depot Albany, GA;
Israel & Egypt as a UN Sinai Observer,
CO of 3rd Tanks Twenty-nine Palms, CA;
I & I Rochester NY,
IG Hdqtrs, USMC,
Senior Marine commander over the Armor School at Ft Knox.
Awarded the *Meritorious Service Medal*.

Personal Reflections about Mike Ferguson: