



Norman Robert Banda

September 6, 1932 - December 1, 2015

Norman Robert Banda of Chester, MD, passed away on December 1, 2015, at his home. He was 83.

Born on September 6, 1932, in Crockett, CA, to Italian immigrant parents, John Banda and Camilla Mazzucchelli Banda. He grew up and attended school there, graduating from John Swett High School in June 1950. During the next two years, he continued his education by attending the University of California at Berkeley. On the first day of his third year of college, with the Korean War still raging, he received his induction notice. On October 17, 1952, he was inducted into the Army and began basic training at FT. Ord, CA. In July 1953, he began Infantry OCS at Ft. Benning, GA. On November 24, 1953 he was commissioned a 2LT in Ordnance. He underwent Basic Officer and MOS training at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), MD. His first unit assignment was with the 2d Infantry Division at Ft. Lewis, WA. One third of the division, including his unit, "Gyroscoped" to Alaska in the summer of 1956. His unit was initially stationed at Eielson AFB, south of Fairbanks, and later moved to Ladd AFB on the outskirts of Fairbanks. In mid 1958 he was assigned as XO, then CO of Stallion Site Range Camp at the Northwest corner of White Sands Missile Range, NM. Thirteen miles south of the Camp in Trinity Site where the first atomic explosion took place. He returned the APG in January 1960 to attend the Ordnance Officer Career Course. He next commanded an Ordnance Maintenance Company as part of the Ordnance

Depot Complex in Bupyong, Korea. Upon return to the States he was assigned to and assisted in the closure of the Benicia Arsenal in CA. In preparation for a Military Assistance Program assignment, he first attended the Defense Language Institute at Monterey, CA, studying French, and then the Military Assistance Institute in Arlington, VA. In August 1964 he began a 33 month tour as Supply Officer in the Military Assistance Program Office with the American Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia.

He returned to APG, MD , in April 1967, first as an instructor and Xo of the Ordnance OCS Brigade, and later as XO of the Ordnance School Brigade. In July 1968, as part of the Military Degree Completion Program, he began studies at the University of Nebraska, Omaha Campus, where he attained his BGS Degree in early February 1969. Later that month he began a one year tour as Logistics Officer of the 45th General Support Group in Pleiku, Vietnam. His final military assignment was with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Alexandria, VA, as Pentagon Liason Officer and Joint Action Control Officer. He completed his military service and retired from the Army on November 30, 1972.

In 1973, he began his second 20 year career as a civilian employed by DLA initially with its Inspector General (IG) Field Office in Alameda, CA. This office was responsible for IG inspections and investigations of DLA Field Activities in the Western United States and throughout the Pacific. After over six and one half years in the IG Office, he spent a bit more than a year and a half as Deputy Director of the Office of Planning and Management at DLA's Tracy, CA, Defense Depot. He rounded out the remainder of his 20 years of civilian service as a DLA Customer Supply Assistance Representative visiting all Military and most Federal Civilian activities in Northern CA and NV, initially from his office in Sacramento, CA, and later from Alameda, CA.

In April 1996, he moved from California to Kent Island, MD, to be near his two

sons, John and Joseph, and their respective families which include seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He is survived by his sons.

LTC Banda was predeceased by his father, mother, sister, brother, and two uncles in America, and several aunts, uncles and cousins in Italy.

LTC Banda is a Life Member of the AL, DAV, MOAA, NAUS, and VFW. He held many awards and decorations including LoM, BSM (meritorious service) w/1 OLC, AM w/1 OLC, ACM w/1 OLC, GCM, NDSM w/1 OLC, VSM w/3 BZ Svc Stars, AFRM w/X Yr Device, RVNCM w/60 Device, 2 OS bars.

Following a gathering on Sunday, January 17, 2016, from 2-4 p.m., at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. in Chester, MD, there will be a Funeral Mass in Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church on September 6, 2016. Inurnment will follow at Saint Joseph Cemetery, San Pablo, CA, with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, please make any donations in LTC Banda's name to the charity of your choice or to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 643-2226
info@fhnfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Norman Robert Banda*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - January 12, 2016 at 02:33 PM



“ *Norman Robert Banda*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Norman Robert Banda*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Mark Only lit a candle in memory of Norman Robert Banda*



Mark Only - February 02, 2016 at 09:17 PM

RC

“ Dear John and Joseph. So sorry to hear that your Father and one of my best friends died so unexpectedly. As you know Norm and I met in the Army, went to our last semester of college together and was with me when I met my Dear late Wife Nora. We stayed in touch over the years (more than 45 of them).

I will always remember the good and bad times we had, many more good ones than bad ones.

Love to your family, your Mother also, I hope she is still alive, if so tell her hello for me.

Ron a d Jo Ann Chapman

Ronald A Chapman - January 23, 2016 at 07:49 AM

FS

“ John and Joe, just want to let you know what a pleasure it was to work with and know your dad. I will miss out exchanges of Christmas cards in Polish and Italian .May Norm rest in peace.

Fred Slaveski - January 18, 2016 at 09:01 AM

MM

“ Dear John, Joe and all the family -

We are so sorry for the loss of your amazing father, and we are so thankful for his service to our country and were priveleged to know him. We continue to pray for you to find peace and have strength at this difficult time.

Pete and Marie Martinez

Marie Martinez - January 11, 2016 at 09:15 AM

