

## **JOHN BORGMAN**

**John Borgman was born in Aurora, Indiana on November 2, 1932, the son of Ernest and Elsie Borgman. John had two sisters, Donna and Catherine. They lived on Sunnyside Avenue.**

**John attended St. Mary's Catholic School and is still a faithful member of the church. He was baptized there in 1932 and four generations of his family have attended school there since 1906. He has three grandchildren: Elsa, Evan and Elliot. John graduated from St. Mary's in 1946 and then Aurora High School in 1950. He went on to get a degree from Indiana University School of Business in business management and played on the IU Junior Varsity Basketball Team.**

**John entered the United States Army in 1955 and eventually became a highly decorated Lieutenant Colonel and a Special Forces Green Beret. As a Master Parachutist, he earned his badge with a gold star for well over 100 jumps. He also wears the parachutist badge with a star to denote a combat jump. He took his basic training and AIT at Ft. Carson, Colorado and then attended Officer's Candidate School (OCS) where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He attended Jump School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. John served three tours in Vietnam and served for over 20 years. He led the last battalion size combat jump in Vietnam in 1968 with 500 men under his command.**

**John served in the European Theater from 1956 to 1959 in Germany. He returned to the USA for part of 1959 to 1961. He then was assigned to Vietnamese Language School to prepare as an American adviser in 1962, attached to a South Vietnamese Airborne Unit. After one year in Vietnam, he returned in 1963**

**to Charlottesville, Virginia and then to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina from 1964 to 1966. From 1966 to 1967, he was assigned to Thailand and then left to serve two more tours in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968-69. His next assignment was at Bad Tolz, Germany from 1969 to 1973. He returned to the USA and served from 1973 to 1975 at Arlington Heights, Illinois, until his retirement. More than one half of John's service was overseas. His last official airborne jump was at Bad Tolz, Germany on May 14, 1973, while training men for low level jumps from a height of 700 feet. John once made a jump from a hot air balloon in Belgium from 4000 feet.**

**John set goals of becoming a Platoon Leader, Company Commander and Battalion Commander and he met them. His parachuting skills were legendary and he received wings from the USA, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark and Greece.**

**John received many awards, medals and commendations. He was awarded the Expert Shooting Badge for Pistol and Rifle; the National Defense Service Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters; Parachutist Badge; Expert Infantryman Badge; the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with one silver star and two bronze stars; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters; Senior Parachutist Badge with star for a combat jump; Master Parachutist Badge with a Gold Star; Bronze Star Medal with "V" for Valor with two oak leaf clusters, representing three awards of this medal for heroism under enemy fire. The Armed Forces Honor Medalist Class; Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm; Legion of Merit;**

**Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a silver star representing six awards of this medal; Presidential Unit Citation; Meritorious Unit Citation; Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation: Republic of Germany Sports Medal in Gold; Valorous Unit Badge; Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster.**

**While John was at Bad Tolz, Germany, he met and married his wife, Marianne, in 1972. After John's retirement, they returned to Aurora where John joined the First National Bank. He was appointed to the advisory board and became a director in 1980. He retired as a Vice President in 1991.**

**In 1994, John was elected to Aurora City Council and served as the Mayor for awhile. He served on City Council for many years and is active in many clubs and organizations. He is a Life Member of the VFW, Life Member of the Southeastern Indiana Vietnam Veterans of America, Lary D. Fogle Chapter 71 and American Legion Post 231 in Aurora. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Lions Club and was honored as a Kentucky Colonel. He served on the Dearborn County Hospital Auxiliary for 20 years.**

**John's family, faith, community and our nation are extremely important to him. John and Marianne have one daughter, Chrissy, who is married to Dave Meek. There are three grandchildren: Elsa, Evan and Elliot. You will see Marianne and John at many functions and ballgames supporting our community.**

**John was honored with a beautiful plaque at the Trinity Christian Center for his service; a Quilt of Valor from Rivertown**

**Quilters and was honored by the Cincinnati Reds as a Hometown Hero.**

**John Borgman is a True American Hero, a Combat Veteran and a leader on the battlefield in combat situations. John said, "I always took care of my men." Thank God for men, like John, who make it possible for us to be able to live in the greatest nation on the face of the earth and to be able to Live the American Dream. God Bless you, John.**