

FORREST VIRGIL GRAVES

Lieutenant Colonel Forrest V. Graves, USA (Ret.), was born on 21 August 1935 in Dallas, TX, and passed away on 29 June 2001 at Wilford Hall, USAF Medical Center at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX, due to complications from heart surgery.

Those privileged to know him have many fond memories of Virgil as a Classmate and friend. He enlisted in the Navy and served as a radarman in the fleet for two years before taking the examination for the Naval Academy. At the time of his induction into the Academy, he was a few years older with more sophistication and knowledge than most of his Classmates. Nevertheless, his wry and self-effacing humor comforted us all during the trauma of Plebe Year while his no-nonsense style as an upperclassman coupled with his often whimsical view of life made Virgil a delight to be around. As a Classmate Virgil was bright, inquisitive, social, fun and helpful. As a friend and roommate he was loyal, supportive, and helpful with the inevitable crises of Bancroft Hall life. At service selection time senior year, Virgil announced that he "hated to stand watch!" and summarily selected the Army as his service of choice.

Following graduation many of us lost close contact with Virgil as he pursued a successful career in the Army, where he achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel prior to his retirement. Forrest Virgil Graves was a man of uncommon character and integrity. His career in the Army was a distinguished one; notably, Virgil was a highly decorated veteran of the Vietnam War. In addition to his degree from the Naval Academy Virgil achieved an M.B.A. degree from Tulane University.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing Virgil intimately, Classmates, roommates, and close friends, are greatly sorrowed at his passing. The world is diminished by the loss of his wonderful sense of humor, his abiding humility and his great love of country and family. He is survived by his daughter, Linda Lee Graves of Tempe, AZ; his son, Carl Allen Graves of Los Angeles, CA; his father, Raymond V. Graves; brother, Captain Paul B. Graves '64, USMC (Ret.), of Chico, CA; sisters, Hazel Parker of Cypress, CA, Bonnie Dunn of Stafford, VA, Donna Story of Ottawa, KS, and Jan Smith of Oroville, CA. He is also survived by his longtime companion and close friend, Dee Wanek of San Antonio, TX.

*Pat Sullivan '60 & the family of F V Graves
Shipmate, October 2001*