

## Bill Chandler Memory

By Felix Ciarlo, May 2019

One of my greatest memories is of a chance meeting I had with Bill in August 1967 at Fort Benning Georgia.

I was a senior candidate at the Infantry Officer Candidate School and about to graduate in a few weeks. One afternoon we were given a short break and allowed to leave the company area and go to the PX. After finding the items I needed, I got in the very long line and finally made it up to the cashier. When my item prices were totaled, I opened my wallet and discovered I was ten cents short of the total amount. As I stood there embarrassed and trying to decide which of the items to leave behind, a dime came rolling down the counter from behind me and stopped in front of the cashier. When I turned to see who had decided to help me out, there was Bill with his trademark beaming smile grinning from ear to ear. We hadn't seen each other since leaving SHS and it was a terrific surprise reunion I remember to this day. Unfortunately, it was the last time I would see him.

Many years later, while visiting the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., I finally had enough time to locate the names of friends and colleagues engraved on the wall and began to visit each one. It was a dreary, overcast day and the sun had not shown itself all morning. When I reached the panel that contains Bill's name, I began searching for it working my way down from the top. Before I found his name the clouds broke apart, the sun finally came out, and a reflection of the Washington monument appeared on the black granite wall. It was then that I noticed the base of the monument's reflection was directly above the first letter of Bill's name - William G. Chandler. It was an amazing occurrence and I was fortunate to capture it in this photo. Bill was smiling at me again.

