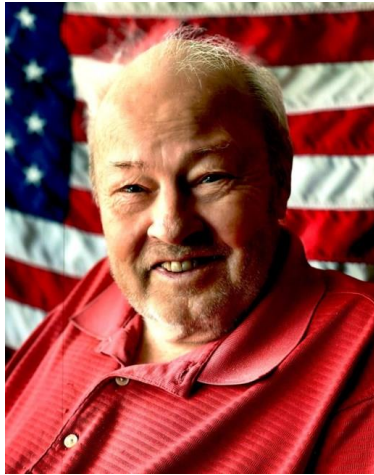


ROBERT JAMES BRIGHTWELL



Brightwell, Robert J. USA MAJ Ret:
Flight Class: 67-24 RVN: 68-69 118th AHC, C/3/17th Call sign: "War Wagon"
RVN 71-72 C/1/1 Cav Call sign: "KnightHawk"
BS, PH, AM w/32 OLC, ACM w/OLC, VNCOG w/Palm

Robert was an Air Force brat and moved around between Air Force bases for most of his early life. Robert Joined the Army in 1960. Following Basic Training at Ft Benning, GA., he attended AIT and became a Utility Helicopter Repairman. His first active duty assignment was near Munich, Germany, at Schleissheim Flugplatz. While in Germany, Robert met Paula and they were married.

Following his assignment in Germany, Robert returned stateside in 1965 and attended the NCO academy, then on to OCS, graduating as an Infantry 2LT in 1966, followed by Primary Helicopter Officer Course, graduating as Class 67-24. Robert had two tours in the RVN. His first tour was with the 118th AHC C/3/17th. After he completed his first tour, Robert attended the Light Observation Helicopter Instructor Course and Instructed at Ft Rucker until 1971 when he returned to RVN for his second tour with C Troop 1st Cavalry as a Scout Pilot.

Upon returning from the RVN in 1972, Robert was caught in the RIF, but reenlisted as a Staff Sergeant (SFC) and attended Advanced NCOES in 1975 and was assigned as an Advance Drill Instructor at Ft Sill, OK.

During the time that Robert was enlisted, he completed the educational requirements and was promoted to Major in the Reserves, but continued in active duty as a Staff Sergeant. He was reassigned to Fort Huachuca, AZ with the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School (USAICS) and further assigned to the Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) Program. Robert eventually retired from the Army in 1982 with 21 years of Service.

In Robert's civilian career he worked for Lockheed as a Senior Logistics Engineer. He retired in 2007. He is a Life Member of the VHPA. Robert passed away on March 21, 2026 in Colorado Springs, CO. He is buried at the Colorado Springs VA Cemetery with his beloved Cavalry Hat. He is survived by his Wife Paula of 61.5 years. More information is available at Dignitymemorial.com