

USMC Class 38th OCC/BC 3-66 Alumni Profiles



Stephen M. Snyder

Date: September 4, 2010
Nick Name: Steve
Wife's Name: Faye
Kid's Name: Karen (41), Jason (40), Anna (29)
Nathaniel (27)
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Co. & Platoon OCS: A1
Co. & Platoon TBS: D5
MOS: 0302
Rank: Captain

After leaving Quantico: Served one month on OSO duty and then 30 days leave in San Francisco

Vietnam Tour: July 1966 – July 1967

Attached To: 1/9, 3rd Marine Div. (Dave Mellon and Jerry Howell were in the battalion also)

Jobs in Nam: D Company 2nd Platoon Commander; 1/9 S-2, D Company 1st Platoon Commander; D Company XO; D Company CO

Locations in Nam: Southwest of DaNang, Philippines, I Corps Battalion Landing Team/Special Landing Force. Deckhouse V, Dong Ha, Cam Lo, Con Thien, including operation Buffalo

Operations in Nam: See above

Experiences to Share:

Best:

Landing at Travis AFB in August 1967

Worst:

Lost most of D Company CP (Company Commander, 1st Sgt., radio operators and corpsmen) to incoming on July 6, 1967 and lost Jerry Howell (who had replaced me as 1/9 S-2) to incoming on July 7, 1967. Death of our CO promoted me from XO to CO of the Company.

Favorite Memories:

After Service:

Raising children and keeping in touch with old friends. And our (entire family) trip to and week-long cruise around the Galapagos Island (we had the boat all to ourselves) in 2000-2001

Medals Received:

Purple Heart w/2 Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Bronze Star w/Combat "V", Certificate of Appreciation, VSM w/2 Stars; VCM w/Device

Jobs:

After Service:

Married Judy Hopkins March 9, 1968 at Incline Village, Nevada. Leonard Torres – who I shared an apartment with in San Clemente – flew up from Pendleton and was our best man. Got early leave to allow me to make it to Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) in time to start the fall semester. Graduated 1971 Masters in Public Administration

and 1972. JD (Law School). I have practiced law in San Francisco since 1972 except for two years (1975-1977) when I taught law school at Northwestern University in Chicago. Judy and I attended the 2007 reunion at Quantico in October. She died suddenly from a heart attack the end of that month in the 40th year of our marriage. Several members of 38th OCC and three Marines from D/1/9 flew to the Bay Area to attend her memorial service December 14 of that year, acts of kindness and loyalty for which I will ever be grateful. I've since remarried to Faye Orton Matthews, a long time family friend, a widow herself, and a retired pastor of a local Christian Church.

Other Comments:

I finished my active duty in 1968 at Camp Pendleton, where I made Captain, commanded India 3/27 and then CO of B Co. 5th MP's.