

PHILLIP EUGENE GARDNER

Col Phillip Eugene Gardner, USMC (Ret.), a Washington, D.C., area computer security expert, died on 11 May 2000, at the University of Washington Hospital in Seattle, WA, after a long battle with leukemia.

Colonel Gardner, who grew up in Alexandria, VA, and lived in Northern Virginia for many years, attended George Washington High School, where he was a member of the national champion crew team of 1956. He joined the Marine Reserves at the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, D.C., while still in high school. Upon graduation, he then moved on to the Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1960.

After completing The Basic School at Quantico, he was assigned as the executive officer of the Marine detachment of CANBERRA, followed by a tour with 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines. A tour as an instructor at The Basic School, attendance at the Amphibious Warfare School and assignment as the senior advisor followed this tour to the 6th Battalion of the Vietnamese Marine Corps. Later assignments included assistant operations officer, G-3, 1st Marine Division, Danang, Vietnam; operations officer, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division; project officer at the Marine Corps Development Center; and amphibious training officer for ComStrikForSouth, Naples, Italy.

Colonel Gardner also served as the commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, deputy assistant chief of staff, G-3, for the 7th Marine Amphibious Brigade, and commanding officer of the Naval ROTC unit at the Virginia Military Institute. He retired from the Marine Corps in March 1986 as the assistant chief of staff, Amphibious Warfare Presentation Team, Education Center, MCDEC.

Following his retirement, Colonel Gardner spent many years working in the computer security field, the last six with LOGICON in Reston, VA. He was also an adjunct professor for George Washington University.

Colonel Gardner was involved for many years with the Boy Scouts as a scoutmaster, was the coach for the Virginia Military Institute rugby club and coached the Woodbridge High School freshmen boys and girls crew teams for several years. He had also served as the church council president for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria.

Colonel Gardner attended the United States Naval Academy, the Naval Postgraduate School, the Armed Forces Staff College, and George Washington University.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Phyllis Ann Gardner, of Lorton, VA; sons, Major Robert L. Gardner, USMC, of Woodbridge, VA, and Captain Harry L. Gardner, USMC, of Cherry Point, NC; daughter, Patricia L. Gardner, of Portland, OR; and one grandson.

The Gardner family

Shipmate, September 2000