



RONALD EMMETT SPRATT '71

Lieutenant Colonel Ronald E. Spratt, USMC (Ret.), passed away on 12 October 2016 in the loving presence of family and classmates during his final hours. He was two months shy of '71, the oldest member of the Class of '71.

"Ron" was born in Greenfield, MA, on 20 December 1945, to Commander William C. Spratt, USN (Ret.), and Beatrice Sinclair. He was raised in St. Petersburg Beach and Daytona Beach,

FL, the consummate beach boy and excellent baseball player, then attended Daytona Beach Junior College. He enlisted in the Navy Reserve at 18 and was later accepted to NAPS prior to entry to USNA as a member of the 15th Company, Class of 1971. He was an avid handball, squash and tennis player at USNA and throughout his life.

Following graduation, Ron was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps and was assigned to 29 Palms MCB as a supply officer. One of his most memorable assignments was Marine Barracks, Guam, where, in 1975, a chaotic exodus of thousands of Vietnamese refugees were received, supported and processed on their way to new homes in the USA.

Ron later became an artillery officer and served in various operational and training command assignments, with multiple foreign deployments. He was fondly remembered by the Army at Ft. Sill, OK, for his post-wide "Beat Army" posters and flyers. Another highlight of Ron's career was his command of Marines in a UNITAS task force circumnavigating South America while conducting joint exercises with host countries.

Upon retiring from the Corps, Ron continued a career of service as a campaign director and fundraiser at several humanitarian and patriotic organizations, including Project Hope, the American Red Cross National Disaster Relief and Armed Forces Emergency Services, the National World War II Memorial and the National Defense University Foundation and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

Ron was a natural class leader, elected as our first Class President and graduating as 36th Company Commander in 1971. He was one of the first appointed members of our Class Executive Board and served in various capacities on the board for over 20 years. He was co-chairman of our wonderfully successful 25th Class Reunion. He was widely known among our classmates for his good cheer, optimism and active support of class activities.

Ron lived, and participated actively, in his Bethesda, MD, community, with his wife, Anne; and daughters, Andrea Spratt-Williams and Allison Spratt Pearce. ★