



## **U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Ilmars H. Dambergs (Ret.)**

### **Served in Vietnam, 1964 - 1968**

LTC Ilmars H. Dambergs, USA (Ret) served in the U.S. Army for 29 years, 8 months and 7 days. His service started on September 23, 1954, and he retired in a splendid ceremony at Fort Myer, Virginia, on May 30, 1984. Dambergs received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant Infantry by graduating from Infantry Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia, on May 29, 1956. In May 2019, he was elected to the Infantry OCS Hall of Fame.

Dambergs service, besides tours in the USA, includes nine years with Army units and staff in Europe and two tours in Republic of South Vietnam -- first tour 1964-65 as Senior Advisor to 22nd Vietnamese Ranger battalion, and the second in 1967- 68 with 101st Airborne Division and as staff officer at 24th Corps. Service in the United States includes Platoon and Company command with 4th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington; Ranger, Airborne, and Infantry Career courses at Fort Benning, Georgia A; a tour with 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; CG&SC at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Assistant Secretary General Staff at 3rd US Army HQ, Fort McPherson, Georgia; Battalion commander at Fort Polk, Louisiana; Department Chief at Institute of Military Assistance at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and concluded as Senior Analyst at Concepts Analysis Agency, Bethesda, Maryland.

Dambergs awards and decorations include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with 1 V Device (3OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (2OLC), Purple Heart, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 1 V Device (1OLC), Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal (7), Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (1), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, Meritorious Unit Commendation (2 Awards), Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm.

Dambergs was born in Latvia, Germany. He and his parents came to this great country as Displaced Persons from Germany in March 1950. He finished high school at Woodrow Wilson High School in Middletown Connecticut and then for three years attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) at Troy, New York. Later in his career, the Army sent him to obtain his undergraduate degree at University of Omaha, Nebraska. He obtained a Masters Degree in Systems Analysis from University of Southern California, while serving at Heidelberg, Germany.

Dambergs and his wife Vera nee Binders, daughter Maija and son Robert, moved to reside in Rockville in December, 1979. He currently lives in Silver Spring.