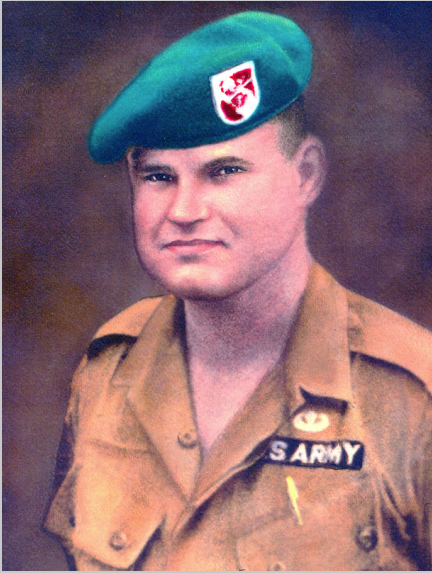


# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**COMMAND SGT. MAJ.  
BENNIE G. ADKINS**

Inducted December 2010



Bennie G. Adkins was born Feb. 1, 1934 in Waurika, Okla. He was drafted in 1956, and was assigned to a garrison unit in Germany, with a follow-on assignment to the 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga. After attending Airborne School, he volunteered for Special Forces in 1961, serving with Special Forces for more than 13 years with the 7th, 3rd, 6th and 5th Special Forces Groups (Airborne).

While in Special Forces, he deployed to the Republic of Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) for three non-consecutive tours. While serving with ODA-102 at A Shau in 1966, his camp was attacked by a large Viet Cong force. SFC Adkins rushed through intense hostile fire and manned a mortar position. Although he was wounded, he ran through exploding mortar rounds and dragged several of his comrades to safety. When the mortar barrage subsided, SFC Adkins carried his wounded comrades to the camp dispensary, while still receiving sporadic sniper fire. During the evacuation of a seriously wounded American, he maneuvered outside the camp walls to draw fire and successfully covered the rescue. During the early morning hours of 10 March 1966, a Viet Cong regiment launched its main attack. Within two hours, Adkins was the only man firing a mortar weapon and although wounded with most of his team killed or wounded, he fought off the waves of attacking Viet Cong. Adkins and the small group of remaining soldiers were ordered to evacuate the camp. Although they were running low on ammunition, they fought their way out of the camp and evaded the Viet Cong for two days until they were rescued. Adkins was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions.

SFC Adkins attended the third class of the Sergeants Major Academy in El Paso, Texas in 1974. After graduating from the Academy, he served with the Jungle School at Fort Benning, GA for two years where he implemented training based on lessons learned from his first tour in Vietnam with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). He retired in 1978.

CSM Adkins received his bachelor's degree from Troy State University in 1979. He earned his Master's Degree in Education in 1982 and then, a second Master's Degree in Management in 1988 from the same institution. Simultaneous to pursuing his degree programs, he established the Adkins Accounting Service, Inc., in Auburn, Alabama, serving as its CEO for 22 years. He also taught night classes at Alabama's Southern Union Junior College for 10 years and at Auburn University for six years. CSM Adkins and his wife were very active in the communities of Opelika/Auburn, Alabama, mentoring students in their studies and those interested in entering military service, especially Special Forces.

CSM Adkins has been married to his wife, Mary, for more than 50 years, and they have four children.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart with four Oak Leaf clusters, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Vietnamese Croix de Guerre, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Special Forces Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge, two foreign parachutist badges and 22 service medals.