

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS  
RILEY E. LOTT, JR.**  
*U.S. Army, Posthumous*

Inducted April 20, 2023



When his colleagues and community speak about Sergeant First Class Riley E. Lott, Jr., their experiences underscore his honor, courage excellence, creativity, and respect. Lott embodied the special operations forces core values and during and beyond his time of military service and positively affected those around him.

Born October 14, 1944, Lott was imbued with the call to serve those around him. At the age of 16, he altered his birth certificate and joined the Army to serve as a medic. When basic training personnel discovered his ruse, they sent him home to wait until his 17th birthday. In his military career, Lott spent nine years on active duty with the U.S. Army Special Forces during which time he achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Lott spent five of his nine years of military service in Vietnam as a combat medic. He began his education in jungle medicine at Long An, Vietnam treating those affected by the siege of the Special Forces team as the Civilian Irregular Defense Group revolted against U.S. forces. Next, he transferred to the camp at Hai Yen, and eventually transferred to Don Phuoc for the period he described as, "the best time of my life." There he spent most of his time living with, fighting with, treating, and training the Cambodian strikers that made up the Mobile Strike Force Command, also known as the MIKE Force, and their families. In Don Phuoc, he immersed himself in the lives and fortunes of the MIKE Force whom he helped convince to join forces with the U.S. to fight communists. So much so that he called the MIKE Force "my troops."

Among numerous beneficial activities, Lott worked with the Cambodian forces to rebuild the abandoned Special Forces camp at To Chau and clear areas surrounding Special Forces camps at Cai Cai and My Dien II. During this time, he treated many (including himself many times) for injuries sustained because of booby traps and mines. One survivor of My Dien II booby traps and mines attested to the corps legend, "When things get hot you call Lapp (George) and Lott."

Lott left the U.S. Army at the age of 26 and continued a life of almost boundless service. He gave care and solace to those in need, such as family members, ailing veterans, and strangers. He opened his home to some and provided care for all. He transported ailing veterans to hospice care and hosted a weekly veterans' lunch at a local eatery to which everyone was welcome.

One of several Green Berets of Native American descent, Riley E. Lott, Jr. lived an extraordinary life of charity and courage that few men can truly understand and even fewer can duplicate.

Lott left a legacy of how to live the special operations core values when he died on August 29, 2021.