

Colonel Bert Rice, U.S. Army (Ret.)



Our story of Colonel Bert Rice, a native of Montana and a forty-plus year resident of Odenton, began in 1959. Upon graduation from the Montana State University he received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the infantry. He began active duty in the U.S. Army in July 1959 and served until July 1989, retiring as a colonel.

Colonel Rice 79, served in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966 and from 1968 to 1969. During his second tour, he served as assistant division aviation officer with the 25th Infantry Division, then commanded Company B, 25th Aviation Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. He flew armed helicopters during both deployments.

His initial posting to Fort Meade from 1976 to 1978 was followed by an assignment to Iran during its revolution in early 1979. Upon returning, he served for three years in the Pentagon before returning to Fort Meade in 1982 where he served with the First United States Army. Other stateside assignments included tours at Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Wolters, Texas; Fort Ord, Calif., and he was the senior army adviser to the Nevada Army National Guard, Carson City, Nevada.

Retiring from active military duty in 1989, Rice was employed by the Department of the Army at Fort Meade until garnering a second retirement. He served as project officer and program manager for several projects, including the Enhanced Use Lease (EUL), Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), transportation demand management and state-funded roadway projects. He served as director of transformation for five years and as the acting director of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) for more than a year.

The highly respected and decorated Rice also served the Anne Arundel County Council from 1994 to 1998 and as chair in 1998. He has been married to the former Deanna Swenson for over 50 years until her recent passing, they have two sons, Stephen and Kevin, both combat veterans of Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Colonel Rice has been a longtime friend and supporter of the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company in good times and in bad.

In appreciation of his lifetime of service and for his friendship to the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company the Board of Directors hereby award the Honorary Title of Life Member to Colonel Bert Rice.