

LTC (Ret) Billy J. Slusher

April 18, 1935 - November 24, 2009



Age 74, Lawton - Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Monday in the Becker Funeral Home Memorial Chapel with Chaplain (LTC) Paul Andreasen officiating. Colonel Slusher died Tuesday, November 24, 2009 in Lawton. Burial with full military honors will be in the Post Cemetery, Fort Sill.

He was born April 18, 1935 in Oklahoma City. He graduated from Newcastle High School in 1953. He attended the University of Oklahoma and received a BA in History in 1958. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army through the ROTC program. He married Sylvia Weaver on May 27, 1960. He spent most of his twenty year Army career flying both fixed and rotary wing aircraft and was involved in the early development of armed helicopters. He served two

tours each at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Knox, Kentucky and three tours of duty in Vietnam. He also served tours of duty in Germany and Fort Rucker, Alabama.

His awards and decorations include the Army Aviator Badge, Vietnam Service Medal with Seven Service Stars, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with First Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with Second Oak Leaf Cluster, Senior Army Aviator Badge, Air Medal with V Device and Nineteenth Oak Leaf Clusters, Four Overseas Service Bars, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm and the Meritorious Service Medal. His last Army position was with Cameron University as Assistant Professor of Military Science from October 1973 to July 1976 and became Professor of Military Science from August 1976 until his retirement from Active duty in May of 1979 with over 20 years of active service.

Following his retirement from the Army he spent one year teaching High School ROTC in Houston, Texas, and sixteen years working for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services as a job developer. He was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and was known as the "Ole Redbird" caller on the Sports Animal Radio Program. He was member of the DAV and a past member of the Noon Lion's Club. He is survived by his wife, of the home; a daughter and son in law, Dina and Gregory Seward, Lawton; two granddaughters, Lauren Blount, and Melisa Seward, both of Lawton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 825 NE 13th Street, Oklahoma City OK 73104 or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Becker Funeral Home: www.beckerfuneral.com