



## Lieutenant General John Nelson Brandenburg

April 29, 1929 - January 14, 2020

### LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN N. BRANDENBURG

United States Army, Retired

General Brandenburg was born in Enid, Oklahoma, on 29 April, 1929 and grew up in Woodward, Oklahoma. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Science Degree from George Washington University.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant as Distinguished Military Graduate through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program at Oklahoma State University and came on active duty in June 1951.

General Brandenburg has served in Korea twice, in Germany and twice in Vietnam. He commanded at every level from platoon through Corps. After commanding at battalion and brigade levels, he was assigned as Assistant Division Commander, 101st Airborne Division in 1974 and later became XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Chief of Staff in 1957.

General Brandenburg assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell in 1978 and served in that capacity until 1980. His final assignment was Commander of I Corps at Fort Lewis where he served from 1981 until 1984. He also held key staff assignments throughout his career, including Headquarters, Department of the Army in the Pentagon.

Military schools attended include the Infantry School, Aviation School, Airborne School, Air Assault School, Command and General Staff Collage and the National War Collage.

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, three Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Crosses, two Bronze Stars, 14 Air Medals, and the Purple Heart, plus numerous foreign decorations. He has been awarded two Combat Infantry Badges and earned the Parachutist, Air Assault and Master Army Aviator Badges.

General Brandenburg retired from the Army in May 1984 after 33 years of service. Following his retirement, he served as the Chairman of the Cherokee County, Georgia Commission for four years from 1991 through 1995.

He and his wife Beverly live in Canton, Georgia. They have three children, three grandchildren and three great grand children.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Georgia National Cemetery**  
1080 Veterans Cemetery Rd.  
Canton, GA, 30114

**Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

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Darby Funeral Home  
480 E. Main St., Canton, GA, US, 30114

**JAN 20** **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

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Darby Funeral Home Chapel  
480 East Main Street, Canton, GA, US, 30114

**JAN 21** **Graveside** 12:00PM

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Georgia National Cemetery  
1080 Veterans Cemetery Rd., Canton, GA, US,  
30114

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Darby Funeral Home** - January 19, 2020 at 10:01 AM

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“ Wow, and I just found out about this now.

First, my condolences to the family. I know its been almost two years since he passed away. He was a great man and in many ways more than that to me.

I first met him back in 1974 when he was a Brigadier General with the 101st Airborne Division. We the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry were out in the field being evaluated and Major General Sidney Berry our Division Commanding Officer, Brigadier General John N. Brandenburg and Lieutenant Colonel Teddy Allen were talking. I took an image of the three. And at that moment, one really annoyed Major General Sidney Berry looked my way.

At that moment, I took a picture - which I don't have to share - the present Commanding Officer of the 101st and two future Commanding Officers of the 101st had their picture taken.

I also took additional images that day and when he saw me taking them BG Brandenburg said, "And I want 5 pictures for my grandmother."

Another time when I was late for a Field Officer promotion that BG Brandenburg was there to do - which wasn't my fault by the way - he had just finished the promotion saluted and had done his 180 degree turn to walk away when he saw me.

"Specialist Edwards, you are late. What do you want me to do?"

"Can we do it again, sir?"

"Certainly!"

So we did. Of course, I got chewed out by the Squadron XO.

During a Hail and Farewell ceremony for my Squadron CO, that same XO was told to have me report to BG Brandenburg to have a picture taken with him. When I reported to him, he said, "You have taken many pictures of me, I think it is time we had a picture taken together."

Finally, when MG John N. Brandenburg returned to the 101st as Commanding officer, I too, returned to the 101st and was again back at the 2/17th Cavalry. So, naturally, the CO wanted me to take some pictures of our new Division CO.

I went way, way out of my way to sneak around to take some images of MG Brandenburg. Which worked out well until I realized that walking up to the main building left me nowhere to hide. And of course he saw me - I swear he had radar - excused himself from my CO and walked right up to me.

"Sergeant Edwards, didn't I just send you to Germany?"

"Yes, sir."

"What are you doing back?"

He just started laughing and walked away without giving me a chance to respond.

During REFORGER 78, I went with A Troop, 2/17th Cavalry as part of the Task Force 229th. It was supposed to be an enjoyable time for me with no pressure to take pictures. I did a Wertheim goes to Wertheim that got published in Stars and Stripes.

As it turned out, the official Task Force Photographer wound up in a cast and I was ordered to report to a BG whom which I don't recall his name who told me my film had been confiscated by the US Army and I was now the Official Task Force 229th photographer.

During the Army Aviation Association Of America (Quad A) convention MG John N. Brandenburg the attachment, marked in yellow talks about his reliance on the pictures taken.

He didn't have to do it - since that was my job at the time - but MG John N. Brandenburg sent me a letter of appreciation for my efforts.

MG John N. Brandenburg will always be remembered by me as a Soldier's soldier and I will miss him dearly.



Richard T. Edwards - June 19 at 04:16 AM

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“ I served as an enlisted soldier at HQs, XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg in 1977 when the general was the Corps Chief of Staff. I used to see him at briefings with the Corps commander, LTG Henry "The Gunfighter" Emerson. It was a privilege to serve under such legendary generals that also included MG Robert Kingston, MG Thomas Tackaberry and MG Roscoe Robinson. Barely three years later I am a first lieutenant serving under General Brandenburg again when he was commander of I Corps at Fort Lewis, WA. Rest in peace my general. You served your country well.

John Lopez Jr. - February 02 at 02:14 PM

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“ General Brandenburg witnessed me riding a motorcycle on the back tire when he was roadside by a parade field with his driver in his Jeep. Luckily for me there was no regulation that stated this could not be done in 1978. After deliberating with the MP's that were called, he was beyond angry as they couldn't write a ticket. Since he was post commander of Fort Campbell he could say who did get to drive on post. Never think you can outwit a Screaming Eagle especially when your visiting their home turf nor a battlefield. I guarantee you will not be happy when the claw comes down. General Brandenburg your a great soldier and brave man. Glad I survived and Sgt Phinazee that had to report with me was actually shaking in his boots when I told him General Brandenburg wanted to talk to him outside. SSGT Phinazee said , "Whatever you have done I cannot save you now!" I remember him asking his driver.. "Whats it called when you ride on your back tire again?' His driver said a "Wheelie Sir!". I bet its on some regulation now in Army laws! I still salute you as a fellow Okie from Oklahoma. Much respect and sympathy to the Brandenburg family. Wonderful Commander. Love from Specialist Lee 1/3 ADA. Longest wheelie on Ft Campbell to date (maybe the last). Mine for sure. Hopefully your laughing above the clouds at the incident with your Airborne Wings shining. RIP.

Sp4 Lee - July 16, 2020 at 09:53 PM

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“ My father was John's step brother. William R Brandenburg. He was always so proud of his brother. He spoke very highly of him.  
Here are some pictures of my Dad.  
Lynn Brandenburg Voss  
Soudan, MN



Lynn Voss - May 25, 2020 at 10:32 PM

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“ I was privileged to watch the wonderful video here in Texas during the graveside services in Canton, Georgia. A great tribute to a great soldier and his family. John Brandenburg exemplified the best in leadership. I served as a brigade commander under his inspiring leadership at Fort Campbell when he was Assistant Division Commander. He was able to get top performance from his officers and soldiers through a balance of solid experience, personal example, and humor. I have always been grateful for his encouragement, friendship, and style of leadership. He and Bev were a refreshing exception to a sometimes stuffy command and social environment. While it was sad to learn of his passing, I was delighted to read of how his strong leadership and personal qualities carried over into his retirement years in Canton and how his life positively touched so many. My wife, Sally, joins me in saluting this outstanding soldier!

Forest S. Rittgers, Jr.  
COL, US Army, Ret'd  
Georgetown, TX

**Forest Rittgers** - January 21, 2020 at 02:36 PM

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“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Lieutenant General John Nelson Brandenburg.



January 20, 2020 at 09:42 AM

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“ Jim and Janie Mercure purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Lieutenant General John Nelson Brandenburg.



**Jim and Janie Mercure** - January 20, 2020 at 07:54 AM

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“ Dear Bev and family,  
Just heard of the general 's passing. We have such fond memories of serving with you both!  
Sincerely, Jack and Mary Beth Turecek

Mary Beth Turecek - January 19, 2020 at 05:12 PM

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“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Lieutenant General John Nelson Brandenburg.



January 18, 2020 at 07:09 PM

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“ A Soldier's Soldier He deeply cared for all his troops, from Senior Officer to new Private. He and Bev took care of us all, soldiers and families. An amazing career to have his beloved Blackhawks in his Division. He was respected and loved by all he touched. No greater honor for a true Soldier. He will be missed

BG Woody and Sally Held - January 17, 2020 at 10:01 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lieutenant General John Nelson Brandenburg.



January 16, 2020 at 02:01 PM

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“ I am sorry for your loss. I always enjoyed when the Colonel (at the time) came to the service station. He was a good man with a good family.

**Tim Lawson** - January 16, 2020 at 08:44 AM

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“ Dearest Beverly  
It saddens me to hear of Johns passing. It was always a pleasure to visit with you both at the pharmacy. You and John always brought smiles to the entire staff when you were in the pharmacy. May His Memory Be Eternal. May you find comfort in all the happy memories you and John shared. Much love to you and your family.

Doug Arp

**Doug Arp** - January 15, 2020 at 06:13 PM

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“ Beyond blessed to have known and worked for General John Brandenburg many years ago when he became Chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners in 1991! I was 22 years old working as secretary to the Board and to say I was intimidated by him at first would be an understatement. One afternoon the first week in office Mr. Brandenburg was in a meeting, but he was about to be late for one he couldn't miss. I knocked on the closed door, stuck my head in and told him I was sorry to interrupt...He replied "yes, but you did it anyway." Slightly taken aback I smiled and replied, "yes sir, I interrupted but you are going to be late so maybe that makes us even." He simply smiled, then chuckled and ended his meeting immediately. It was then that I realized that although he meant business and was direct when necessary, he was also funny and kind. Many great memories with he and Beverly thru those years. Without a doubt, this world is a better place because of them both! Love and prayers to the entire family.

**Joey K Hunt** - January 15, 2020 at 02:23 PM

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“ Chairman Brandenburg was always a gentleman the short time I worked with him. He had a ready smile and usually a kind word for everyone. I always enjoyed spending time with him and Beverly after he left office. Both he and Beverly had a great sense of humor, which we all appreciated. My prayers are that memories will comfort Beverly and the family during this time and always.

Sheila R. Corbin

Sheila Corbin - January 15, 2020 at 01:46 PM

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“ I was privileged to serve on LTG Brandenburg’s personal staff when he assumed command of I Corps at Fort Lewis, WA in June 1981. He became a mentor and close personal friend. A superb leader who truly cared for his soldiers. My wife and I have cherished our long standing friendship with John and Bev. RIP, Brave Warrior. Very Respectfully, COL(Ret.) Andy Dulina.

Andy Dulina - January 15, 2020 at 01:14 PM