



Richard Hoffman Class of 2013

Lt. Colonel Richard Hoffman, USMC Retired, graduated from Oroville, High School (OHS) in 1961 where he was a four year letterman in three sports, football, basketball, and track. He set the school record in the mile and was the second fastest half-miler in school history. He was all conference quarterback and a Block O member all four years in addition to being the Block O representative on the student council.

After earning his diploma at OHS, Richard earned his AA degree from Yuba College, where he was an outstanding quarterback and defensive back. He then received his BA degree from Chico State and following his graduation, completed his student teaching at Las Plumas High School (LPHS) and returned to OHS to coach tennis and basketball. He then went on to earn his MBA from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

Richard enlisted in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) in 1966 and served his country with honor and distinction for the next twenty seven years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1993. Throughout his military experience, Colonel Hoffman exemplified distinguished leadership at each stage of his career and especially while in combat during the Viet Nam War. While in the Marines, he graduated from Armed Forces Staff College, Army Ranger School, and Army Airborne (Parachute) School.

Over his twenty-seven years, Colonel Hoffman earned numerous leadership roles including: Commanding a Rifle Platoon, two USMC companies in the Republic of Viet Nam, G3 Operations Officer, US Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and Battalion Commander.

He was Department of Defense Coordinator for Security of International Athletes. At the Goodwill Games, 1990, Colonel Hoffman was responsible for directing various security agencies of the federal government and managed an eight million dollar budget. He also authored and published numerous articles regarding Marine Military Strategy and was a frequent guest speaker on this subject.

Throughout his career in the USMC, Colonel Hoffman was highly honored and decorated, receiving numerous commendations, awards, and medals. He earned two Silver Star medals for Gallantry in Viet Nam. The Silver Star is the 3rd highest military award designed solely for heroism in combat. The award was established in 1918. He also won the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for Valor, and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V". Other prestigious commendations bestowed on Colonel Hoffman included three defense Meritorious Service Medals; Naval Meritorious Service Medal, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Silver Star. For this Silver Star Colonel Hoffman was decorated for his "achievements in support of the Armed Forces of Viet Nam in their struggle against the Communist aggression."

Colonel Hoffman's military career is summed up well in a letter from the President via his commanding officer stating, *"By his courage, bold initiative and unwavering, devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger, First Lieutenant Hoffman saved the lives of several Marines and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."*

Richard supported his wife Janet with her career in the United States Army. Janet served in command positions almost exclusively during the last ten years of her military service. As the spouse of a battalion and later a Brigade Commander, he consistently contributed services to the spouses and families of each of those units. This is a common trend in the military, but not common for a retired Marine officer to be the spouse responsible for the commanders' subordinate spouses.

For thirty-two years, Richard officiated high school and college sports and was president of the Officials Association in Italy for two years. He did extensive volunteer work in youth sports in Naples, Italy. His volunteer coaching career was highlighted by the privilege of coaching "All Marine Basketball Team", in 1971 and 1972.

Since 2001, he has volunteered as youth baseball coach and Little League coach in Chico, helped in the Pleasant Valley High School (PVHS) girls basketball program, and been a PVHS sports booster, member and leader.

Richard is a life member of Disabled Veterans of America and the Military Officers Association of America. He is also a current member of the Retired Officers' Association Club in Chico, CA where he resides with his wife Janet.