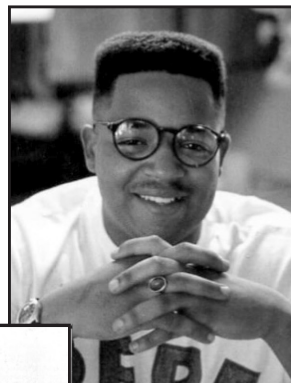


# **MSG Donovan “Donny” Nelson Butler, U.S. Army, Retired**

Donavan “Donny” Butler served in the U.S. Army for 29 years until his retirement as a master sergeant in 2018. After he joined the military in 1989 out of high school, Butler’s career first took him to Germany at the end of the cold war and then to South America, where he was based in Panama and engaged in operations in Belize, El Salvador and Colombia. He worked on bases in San Antonio, Texas, and Fort Knox, Kentucky, and became a military combat trainer, an Army basic instructor and an applied suicide intervention skills trainer.

He received the prestigious Meritorious Service Medal and

more than 35 other medals and honors during his career. But his most coveted accomplishments include the work he did advocating for equal opportunity and protections from civil rights oppression, bias and prejudice within the military culture. This work spanned decades and required continuous monitoring of superiors and commanding officers. He attributed his drive to do what was right for his peers to his education in University City Schools, which stressed integrity and character, and a U. City community that taught him to look out for others. His love of adventure started as a youngster playing on the banks of the River Des Peres in University City.



**MSG Donovan  
“Donny”  
Nelson Butler,  
U.S. Army,  
Retired**

*Class of 1989*