

GEORGE F. BANDA

George was born in July 1948 in a very small town in Texas, named Mirando city. His parents relocated to Wisconsin when George was just five years old settling in Milwaukee. He attended and graduated from the old Milwaukee's Boy's Tech High School. Soon after graduation George entered the military by "request" and served in the U. S. Army. In January of 1969 he was sent to Ft. Campbell Kentucky for boot camp training. After boot camp he was assigned to medical corpsman training at Ft. Sam Houston in Texas. In April of 1969 he graduated from Ft. Sam Houston and went on to train at Ft. Benning Georgia as a paratrooper. He was then assigned to Ft. Ord Army hospital in California in June of 1969 where he worked in the post-operative ward. In late October of 1969 George received orders for Vietnam. In December of 1969 George arrived in the Republic of Vietnam and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles 2/501st Echo Company "RECON" as a Combat Medic.

George as a member of the 101st Airborne Division earned many distinguished commendations in Vietnam, including Combat Medic Badge 1st Award, Silver Star Medal for Gallantry in Action, Bronze Star Medal with 'V' Device for Heroism in Ground Combat, Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, Purple Heart Medal for Combat Wounded. Vietnam Cross for Gallantry with Palm , and many other commendations.

George and his wife Lorraine call Milwaukee home. George continues to serve veterans as Commander of the Milwaukee County Purple Heart Chapter #818, also as State Commander of the American GI-Forum, a National Latino veterans organization, and serves on many Boards and committee's throughout the state. In his retirement, George continues to give of himself by helping fellow veterans, his family, and his friends.