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GENERAL WILLIAM E. DePUY

The death of General William E. DePuy, on 9 September 1992, in Arlington, Virginia is announced with deep regret. His last duty assignment was as Commander, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

General DePuy was an officer of the highest ideals. His courage, sound judgment, and leadership produced military achievements of great value to his country. General DePuy's military career spanned 36 years and three wars. With his passing the nation has lost a faithful, valiant servant and the United States Army a great commander.

General William E. DePuy was born in Jamestown, North Dakota, October 1, 1919. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Economics. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Infantry from ROTC in 1941 and joined the 20th Infantry Regiment, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

In April 1942, he joined the 357th Infantry Regiment of the 90th Division, Camp Barkley, Texas, where he served in a number of positions including Regimental Operations Officer and Battalion Commander, deploying with the regiment to the European Theater of Operations in March 1944. He fought with the division in the Normandy hedgerows and during the Northern France, Ardennes, Rheinland, and Central Europe Campaigns. In July 1945, he became G–3 of the 90th Infantry Division.

In the fall of 1945, he returned to the United States to attend the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Following graduation he was assigned to the War Department General Staff in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G–1.

General DePuy attended the Army Language School in Monterey, California in January 1948 for a 12 month course in Russian. He then attended a course at the Strategic Intelligence School in Washington, D.C. prior to becoming the Assistant Military Attache, and later the Acting Army Attache in Budapest, Hungary in 1949.

General Depuy's next assignment in 1950 was with the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. where he headed China operations.

In February 1953, General DePuy entered the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia, and upon graduation was assigned to Germany where he served a three year tour as Assistant G–3 in V Corps; Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment; and Acting Deputy Chief of Staff in V Corps. Returning again to Washington, D.C., in 1956, he served for four years in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army helping design the Army's force structure, doctrine and training policies.

In 1960, General DePuy returned to Europe, first to attend the British Imperial Defence College in London, England and then after one year in England, he went to Schweinfurt, Germany to become the Commander of the 1st Battle Group, 30th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division.

In May 1962, General DePuy returned to Washington where he served as Director of Special Warfare in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations. He later was Director, Plans and Programs, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development.

General DePuy was ordered to Vietnam in May 1964, where he served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). In March 1966, he became Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division.

Upon returning from Vietnam in March 1967, General DePuy joined the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the Special Assistant for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities.

On 10 March 1969, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assumed the duties of Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, a position he held for four years.

General DePuy became Deputy Commanding General, United States Continental Army Command in March of 1973 and later became the first Commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. This new command had overall responsibility for the Army's training center and school system, the ROTC program, and combat and doctrine development. During his tenure, General DePuy set the Army on the course that, ultimately, produced the winning teams during Operations JUST CAUSE and DESERT STORM.

General DePuy retired from Active Duty in July 1977, but remained active in military affairs. He continued to write extensively on professional military subjects and lecture at the services' colleges.

For his service, General DePuy's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Service

Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, The Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal with Valor Device, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.

His foreign decorations include the Order of Commander in the French Legion of Honor, the Knight's Cross of the Germany Order of Merit, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the Republic of Korea Order of National Security Merit First Class.

General DePuy's life was characterized by courage, dedication, and vision. These qualities earned him the respect of all who knew him. The grief caused by the death of General DePuy is shared by all members of the United States Army.

General DePuy is survived by his wife, Mrs. Marjory Walker DePuy; a son William E. DePuy, Jr., two daughters, Joslin DePuy Gallatin and Daphne DePuy Neuhoff, and three grandchildren.

M. P. W. STONE
Secretary of the Army

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