

LTC (Ret) Harold J Baumeister
Class of 1956
Enshrined 2024



Harold Baumeister graduated from Xavier in 1956. He was a member of the Pershing Rifles and, as a senior, he commanded the Pershing Rifles Company G. He earned a degree in Mathematics, was awarded the Xavier Order of Military Merit (XOMM) and was commissioned in the Field Artillery.

Baumeister entered active duty in November. His assignments included numerous artillery and missile battalions in both the US and Europe including those equipped with the Corporal, Honest John and Lance (surface-to-surface guided missile systems which could deliver either a nuclear or high-explosive warheads).

Baumeister attended the Military Advisory Training Academy (Counterinsurgency) at Fort Bragg in 1964, followed by the Defense Language Institute to learn Vietnamese. In 1965, he deployed to Vietnam as a MACV Advisor to the 21st Infantry Division (Vietnamese). During this assignment, he was awarded the Bronze Star and was one of the few Field Artillerymen to be awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge.

After Vietnam, he returned to Fort Sill as Battery Commander, 2nd Bn (Honest John), 30th Artillery, and with his promotion to Major, moved to Battalion S-3. The following year, he was transferred to the 2nd Bn, 79th FA, serving as Assistant S-3, S-3, and the Battalion XO. In 1968, he attended the Personnel Resource Management Course at Fort Benjamin Harrison, followed by an assignment as Team Chief, Personnel Management Development Office, St. Louis. During that time, he was sent TDY to US Army Pacific Command in Vietnam for 3 months.

Baumeister was promoted to LTC while attending the Command and General Staff College. Upon completion, he returned to Fort Sill as Chief, Field Manual and Policy Division, Field Artillery School. After eighteen months, he was assigned to the 9th FA Missile Group as its Executive Officer. In 1974, he was deployed to the US Support Activities Group (USSAG) in Thailand, serving as the Operations and Plans Officer for the evacuation of US citizens and designated foreign nationals from Phnom Penh in Cambodia, for which he was awarded JSCOM. He returned for his 5th tour at Fort Sill, assigned to the newly-formed Lance Missile battalion as Battalion Commander, 6th Bn (Lance), 33rd Field Artillery. He retired in 1977.

In addition to the awards and honors listed above, Baumeister was awarded a MSM and ARCOM w/OLC during his career.

Upon retiring, he worked for Howard Smith Ford in Lawton, OK, working his way to General Manager. Under his leadership, the dealership was recognized as one of the "Top 10 Dealers" in North Texas and Oklahoma and #1 in Customer Service by Ford. During this time, he was also an active member of the Lawton Chamber of Commerce.

He was married to Nancy Ann Baumeister (nee Smith) for 55 years and passed away peacefully in 2022 at 87 years of age.

