

LTC Thomas E Koenig '52 Inducted 2016



LTC Tom Koenig's career spans 30 years in the Active and Reserve Force with assignments from Platoon Leader to CGSC Instructor.

Tom was a Distinguished Military Graduate and 4 year member of Pershing Rifles. Commissioned in 1952 as a Field Artillery Officer, Tom was assigned as a Forward Observer in the 189th Field Artillery Battalion (155mm Howitzer), 45th Infantry Division, supporting the 6th Infantry Division (Republic of Korea). He participated in all major combat operations in the Korean War during the summer of 1952 until the Armistice Agreement was signed on 27 July 1953, including the Battle of Old Baldy.

Upon return to the United States, he served as company executive officer until release from Active Duty in 1954. Tom spent the next 28 years in the Army Reserves assigned to the 83rd Reserve Army Command, 2075 Army Reserve School teaching various topics of Field Artillery Doctrine and Tactics for the Reserve Command and General Staff College. He was an active supporter of the Reserves and personally recruited

10 other officers to remain in uniform through participation in the Reserves.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, UN Korean Service Medal and ROK Korean War Service Medal. He is a recipient of the Order of Saint Barbara.

In civilian life, Tom worked at McAlpin's Department store for 23 years as a Buyer and Department Manager. In 1974, he opened up Koenig's Lighting Center and expanded to three stores in the Greater Cincinnati Area. Residential and business lighting was his passion for almost 30 years until poor health forced him to close the business.

In his leisure and retirement, Tom was an avid amateur military historian and war relic's collector. He was an original member and past president of The Ohio Valley Military Society (One of the largest Militaria collector's clubs in the world) and Ohio Gun Collectors Association. He participated in the Kiwanis International, Association of the United States Army, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Knights of Columbus

Tom exemplifies the highest traditions of the US Army and the Warrior Ethos; the Army ROTC program and living the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage, and Xavier University's values to succeed in changing the world together and acting with integrity, justice and generosity.