

The Biography of LTC (RET) Steven E. Garner



Steven Earl Garner was born August 25th 1951 @ Allen Memorial Hospital to Mr. Earl Ellis Garner and Audrey Pippin Garner. He is the oldest of three children, Jeffery R Garner and Julie A Hilton.

Steven attended Craighead Elementary School, Mae Eanes Middle School (where he first meet Janice) and the on to Murphy High School graduating in 1969.

Steven and Janice were married May 29th 1971 (they had been dating sense the 10th grade) (you may want to ask him out loud if he knows the date we were married? To see if he remembers) and both were now attending the University of Alabama. He continued his education at the University of Alabama with a ROTC scholarship and graduated in August of 1973. Even thou he tried to graduate in December allowing him to go the

Alabama games and to the national championship game that year the army in their own quite little way said “ absolutely not !! “ You are in the Army now.

So off we go to basic in El Paso, Texas where or oldest son was born Ellis Eugene (contracted program analysis with the AF)which is now married to Cheryl (a LTC in the AF serving in Afghanistan) they have two fabulous kids Claire 9 and Caleb 6. They live at Langley Air Force Base. From basic he was sent to Airborne School and finished even though he hates to fly !!

His first station was in Primasens, Germany with Vulcan Battery/ ADA as Chaparral platoon leader, there for 18 months. Then still in Primasens he served as a Vulcan platoon leader for 8 months. During our tour in Primasens Dec of 1974 our youngest son was born. Paul Douglas which is a Emergency Nurse at Touro Infirmary Hospital in New Orleans and is married to Alexandria which works in the school system where our other 4 fabulous grandkids go. Mason 15, Nate 13, Colin 10 and Sophia 7. They all live in Slidell, La.

From there he was stationed at Ramstein, Germany for 15 months as the assistant S3 with 2BN 60TH ADA C V

Then to Ft Hood as Battalion S1 with AD BN 01 HHB Chaparral for 8 months, then still at Ft Hood he took the position of Battery Commander for 14 months. Then for the next two years we felt where the best times we had in the army!! He was now stationed in Dortmund, Germany with the British Army. He was the first with a new exchange program that landed us there. While there he served as Battery OX and also as a Battery CDR, which had never been done in their army. But as you know he knew is stuff and there's to, so they knew he could do the job!! We had such a amazing tour with the British leaning so much from them and they learned so many new things from us. Great times and still have friends from then.

From there he went to Ft Jackson, SC where he was the Org Eff staff officer for 24 months, during that time he did a lot of traveling with this position. In 1985 we were headed to Ft Polk which we also enjoy. Steven first served as the Battalion Executive officer for AD BN 01 HHB C/V/S for 20 months, and then became the Battalion Operations Officer for 9 mos. Our last two years there Steven served as secretary General staff.

In 1990 Steven was selected Battalion Commander for Camp Stanton in Korea and was there for 15 months. He enjoyed his command and the opportunity to help soldiers further their careers. At that time Janice and the boys were still in Ft Polk till his return. After Korea Steven went back to Ft Leavenworth to be a staff leader for CAS3. From there he retired.

During his military career he attend:

1974 Airborne, 76 Nuc/Chem Tar Anal Refr, 77 Motor Officer, 78 Arm Officer Advanced, 82 Pathfinder Crs and Mil Oers Office and Comb Arms Svc Stf Sch, 83 CGSC, 84 Org Effect Staff Officer, 92 Sr Svc College – selectee

1973 received his BS in Psychology Univer of AI and 1983 a MPA from Univer of Missouri, Kansas.

After retirement Steven was fortunate to be able to come back as the SAI for Murphy High Schools' ROTC program, and the rest is history !!

My lord I never thought this would be his true career that he loved !!! But somehow starting from day one he was a changed man. I know we have two of the best son's in the world that we love, but over the years I know we have adopted over 500 as our own. Steven has always wanted to be challenged and the kids in ROTC have given him that.

In the classroom there as been many valuable lessons he feels that they need to know.

The Influence of Steven Garner to his JROTC Cadets:

Before ever entering high school, many of us were already aware of the prestigious reputation of the Murphy High School JROTC program. Everyone wanted to be a part of the winning team, while also getting to travel and gain experiences that we would have never otherwise known. I don't think any of us could have imagined in the process we would also be gaining a lifelong mentor and friend. LTC Garner treated all the cadets like they were his own, and to some he was the only positive father figure they knew. Through the instruction of drill and ceremony, he taught us self-discipline, dedication, and how to take pride in our appearance. Through physical training he introduced the importance of fitness and a lifestyle for some. For those who may not have been the next Michael Jordan or Serena Williams, we were able to compete and win on the drill field and the PT track, and as a result we felt like Olympians.

In the classroom, LTC Garner taught us many valuable lessons. One I remember very distinctly is the lesson of self-confidence, which is something you needed allot of in order to be seen in public with Cujo. But honestly, some of us could not see past the twelfth grade. What would we do? How do we prepare ourselves for adulthood? Where do we even start? He gave us options, and he saw us through until the end. Whether we decided to enlist in the military, join ROTC, pursue a nomination to a Service Academy, or just applying to college in general, he made sure we had the tools to succeed. For many of us that resulted in many partial and full scholarships.

But life was more than just about working hard on the drill field and making good grades to get into college, it was also about having fun. Who would have thought we would ski the slopes of Tennessee, go white water rafting, or kayak the tides of Mobile Bay? Whoever thought a week at a military camp could be so exciting, but for some it was what we looked forward to the entire year. I remember the first year we made it to Daytona Beach, FL. You would have thought we had just landed in Hawaii.

LTC Garner will never know how many lives he impacted, changed, and even saved. He never judged us, and he always saw the good that we sometimes could not see in ourselves. He pushed us beyond boundaries that we never knew existed. He sacrificed so much of his time and a large portion of his life to ensure hundreds of kids got the most out of their lives. We cannot leave out Janice, who always supported both him and the program. She would travel with us and be mom, ensuring that we all behaved, and for that we extend great gratitude for her support. LTC Garner gave us hope and life skills, but the greatest gift of all is what he gave of himself. He will forever be in the hearts of so many, and with that I can say he truly lived out the purpose that God intended for him.

You know Steven's love Julia, not sure if you are using any of the kids. But this says a lot.

My name is Julia Miller, and I was in Murphy JROTC from 2000-2004. I attribute where I am today largely to LTC Garner. I can honestly say that he saved me. He pushed me to take the hard classes; he taught me how to be a leader; and how to be physically and mentally tough. He supported my interest in sports and student government because he wanted me to be well rounded. He had plans for me long before I ever realized it. I remember the day he told me I would be applying to the Service Academies, higher institutions of learning I never knew existed. All I cared about was that it was free college, and little did I know that appointment to West Point would change my entire life. Using everything he taught me in JROTC, I graduated top of my class militarily and became the 1st Regimental Commander, putting me in charge of 1,000 students. On May 31st, 2008 LTC Steven Garner stood in front of me at West Point, NY and swore me in as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. Throughout my journey as a young officer, I constantly looked to him for mentorship. We shared many letters, phone calls, and visits. Even now, as I have transitioned from military to civilian life, he continues to teach me about leadership, preparing myself financially, professionalism, and relationships. I can never thank him enough for what he has done for me, and I am truly blessed to have acquired an amazing mentor and friend for the rest of my life.

When we were on the white water rafting trip we first lost Michael in the water, never seen a child's eyes get so big, his and Steven's. And not seconds later Steven was in the water !! I do believe he went in to make sure Michael made it okay. So me and the girls continued down stream until someone picked them up. It was a great time.,

Over the years even with drill practices, meets, nationals, military balls, decorating, end of the year parties, colors guards, football games, homecoming, community charities, Veteran parade, fund raisers, teaching values and life, picking up kids and taking home, washing uniforms, sewing uniforms, repairing name tags and weapons and most of all the HUGS will never be forget and always remember his love of the kids !!