

## **Colonel John F. Roberts (Class 30-42)**

Colonel Roberts was attending Louisiana State University before World War II and enlisted in the Army on July 30, 1940. He rose to the rank of Sergeant and attended the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on September 17, 1942.

He participated in the invasion of Europe during World War II and ended the war in Austria as a First Lieutenant and Executive Officer of a 105mm howitzer battery. After the war, he returned to LSU, graduating in 1948.

Upon graduation he reentered the Regular Army at the rank of Captain. After commanding at battery level in the artillery he went on to become one of the pioneers of Army aviation, eventually becoming a Master Aviator in various Army fixed wing and rotary-wing aircraft. He was promoted to Major on January 6, 1960. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1963 and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on November 15, 1963.

Colonel Roberts commanded a combat aviation battalion in Vietnam and was the Director of Instruction at the Army Primary Helicopter School at Fort Wolters, Texas during the Vietnam War. He was promoted to Colonel on September 16, 1968.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, two awards of The Bronze Star for Valor, multiple awards of the Air Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.