

## **Colonel Jack P. Ancker (Class 59-43)**

Colonel Ancker attended Purdue University earning a degree in mechanical engineering. In December 1942, he and his ROTC classmates were graduated a semester early so they could attend the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma to receive their Army commissions. He went on active duty on January 8, 1943 and graduated from OCS on April 8, 1943 and then joined the War effort.

His first assignment was to the 680th Glider Field Artillery Battalion (GFAB), 17th Airborne Division at Camp Mackall, North Carolina and after extensive training the unit arrived in the European Theater of Operations. The 680th GFAB made a nighttime assault by gliders across the Rhine River in Germany on March 24, 1945 and faced "the heaviest concentration of antiaircraft fire yet experienced in an airborne operation" according to the Distinguished Unit Citation they later received.

Colonel Ancker served in the Korean War and graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1959. He served a tour in Vietnam and was promoted to Colonel in the Regular Army on January 11, 1968.

His final Army assignment was as Professor of Military Science at the Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University. After his retirement from the Army, He taught for ten years in the Management Department in the NMSU College of Business as an adjunct professor.

He died on October 3, 2019 at the age of 98 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.