

## **Colonel Kimberly Brabson (Class 14-42)**

Colonel Brabson attended the University of Virginia for three years and enlisted in the 12th Field Artillery of the National Guard on August 6, 1941.

He rose to the rank of corporal and attended Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill Oklahoma. He was commissioned a 2LT on May 26, 1942. After graduating from OCS he was first stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was later sent to Camp Hale, Colorado and received training in cold weather survival, mountain climbing, Alpine and Nordic skiing, and the use of a variety of weapons. He served in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. He was promoted to Captain in June 1944 and later awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action and the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.

During his career he served in various assignments at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; in Italy; in France; in Germany; Fort Carson, Colorado; Kiska Island (Aleutian Islands); Fort Campbell, Kentucky; in Japan; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and in Panama.

He was known as a significant contributor of rare wild animal specimens to the Smithsonian Institution. During his varied overseas assignments, he made hunting trips into India, Thailand, Cambodia, and the Alps at the request of the Institution.

Colonel Brabson served as head of the Counter Insurgency Staff of the Department of Joint, Combined and Special Operations at Fort Leavenworth prior to his promotion to Colonel on November 30, 1964. His final assignment was Senior Advisor to the 116th Infantry Regiment in Staunton, Virginia. He retired in 1974 and died on July 28, 2008. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.