



**Lieutenant Colonel
Edwin M. Potratz
Class 4-68**

Lieutenant Colonel Potratz was initially assigned to Fort Campbell before service in Vietnam with 2nd Battalion, 40th Artillery, 199th Light Infantry Brigade. He was severely wounded and after surgery he was moved to the 6th Convalescent Center at Cameron Bay. He was evacuated to the U.S. Army Hospital in Japan, and later transferred to Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio for additional treatment.

He completed his active service at Fort Leonard Wood, with the Basic Training Committee Group in 1971. He then served in a variety of Army Reserve positions, including Director of Enlisted Education and Assistant Commandant of the 4152nd USAR School. His decorations include the Purple Heart.

He is a retired Federal Internal Auditor, Department of Homeland Security, and has devoted more than two decades of tireless community service on behalf of caring for homeless individuals afflicted with conditions such as substance abuse, addictions, HIV and AIDS. He co-founded a charity known as *Friday Night Before Mardi Gras*, which has raised and donated nearly a million dollars to needy charities in the city.

In 2003, he concentrated his efforts on working with another New Orleans based charity, *Shelter Resources (also known as Belle Reve)* which provides temporary shelter, food and other resources to homeless individuals who have no other means of support. Most resident clients are eventually returned to independent living. His dedication, leadership and generous financial support directed toward making life better for those less fortunate has made a real difference in his community. His involvement in the organization's fund-raising endeavors and critical administrative decisions has been directly responsible for the success.