

Madison Mitchiner, Bradley Kleven

LeDuc

Period 4 U.S. History

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William C Poder

On July 7 1949, William C Poder was born in the small town of Liberty, Missouri. Having two competitive brothers and an incredibly loving mother Poder had a pretty nice life full of sports like baseball, basketball and football. Poder attended Liberty High school where he later graduated on September 19, 1958. Being a young teenager of eighteen and having all of his friends enroll into the military, Poder had believed at first he wanted to go into the Air Force however he kept being delayed the opportunity. One day while waiting for the news about the Air Force Poder had ran into a Marine recruiter who showed him the full uniform and metals a U.S Marine Corps Soldier has the ability to wear, this left eighteen year old Poder in complete awe. Seeing all of the things the Marine Corps had to offer Poder decided to forget about the Air Force and enlist in the U.S Marine Corps. This is where he experienced thirteen weeks of incredibly hard training at Camp Pendleton. Some of the procedures he had to endure were 4:30AM wake up, running three miles every day, having to wash and iron his own clothes a specific way, and constantly exercising. In December 1958 Poder graduated from training camp and was now able to move up to the next step in his military career.

After Poder completed his training he was assigned to Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) 0311 as an Infantry Rifleman. By the time of 1959 till 1960 Poder was deployed to Japan where he trained on Mt. Fuji and experienced harsh cold weather conditions. By the time of 1961

Poder returned to Camp Pendleton where he was assigned to Seventh Communications Battalion. Poder had the opportunity to see things that people normally don't have the ability to see. For example, he went and participated in training in Oahu, Hawaii. In 1962 Poder had made the decision to transfer to the Marine Barracks in San Francisco CA. Since transferring Poder had the chance to become a Corporal and Sergeant of the Guard until the year of 1963. The year of 1962 is also the year of Poder had built up the courage to marry the love of his life who he later had two beautiful children with.

Becoming a Drill Instructor was the next stop on Poders list, leading him to enroll in Drill school for eight months of training in San Diego CA 1963. Once Poder had finally completed his schooling he was awarded by General David M Shoup, which gave Poder a new line of opportunities with people who fully supported him. From this point until 1966 Poder had been a Drill Instructor in company on "G" Second Recruitment Training Battalion. When Poder finally had the ability to move, he returned to company "F" Second Battalion Marine Regime. Poder then returned back to Camp Pendleton, where he was assigned to seventh Communications Battalion.

After his return to company "F", Poder was deployed and was given the opportunity to fight for our country in the Republic of Vietnam. On the day of arrival in the city of Danang, Poder had immediately noticed that the dangerously hot weather there left you wishing for bit of a breeze. They arrived at night where they were given a single blanket and a place on a church floor to sleep until the morning when it was time to move along. Poder had not officially received a weapon until the second day of them now fighting in Vietnam. Quang Tin, Quang Nam, and Quang Nai were some of the Northern Provinces that Poder was able to participate in

Combat Operations as a part of first Marine Division (REIN). By the time of 1967 Poder was finally able to return home to the United States to his loving family and friends.

After returning home from Vietnam Poder had once again reported to company "G" where he was able to serve as a Drill Instructor and ended up being able to move up to Senior Drill Instructor. Between the years of 1967 to 1970 Poder graduated twenty platoons. This meant that Poder and one of his partners would go to schools and or homes to educate people of the lifestyles that a military man must endure. Some people had full belief in Poder and all they wanted to do was take the enlistment test at that moment. While others believed that Poder and his men were a waste of their time. Poder had come to know many of men that had the ability to stand up and fight for their country, while others did not have the drive to do what was right. After the completion of his tour Poder was assigned to company "A" First Sergeant where he lived in Hawaii. In 1971 Poder transferred to the U.S Naval Base Marine Barracks Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where he, his wife and his two children lived for two years. In Cuba, Poder had served as a Guard Chief until 1973. After the completion of this tour her reported to Recruiter School MCRD San Diego. When Poder finally made the decision to settle down in RSS South Central Los Angeles for duty where his current rank of Master Sergeant on October 1, 1976.

During Poders active years in duty he had the ability of receiving various awards that included a Vietnamese Service Medal (three stars), a Drill Instructor Ribbon (second award), National Defense Service Award, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm and Frame, and many more after them. These awards show only some of the things Poder had given up in order to try and keep our country safe.

On October 1, 1978 William C Poder had retired from active duty, where he is now given the time to spend time with his family and complete the hobbies that keep him young. Today Poder lives in Victorville, California where he has a full passion of playing golf and spending time with his wife. Poder has two grandchildren that are of the ages of twelve and sixteen. To this day Poder still claims that turning away from the Air Force and looking into the Marine Corps will forever remain one of the best decisions he has ever made. Poder is only one of many veterans that have given their time and while others have given their lives in order to keep our country safe, and to them we will forever be grateful.