

Gordon R. Moreland '57

No. 21221 ■ 5 Jun 1933 – 10 Jul 2001 ■ Died in Waldorf, MD
Interred in Trinity Memorial Gardens, Waldorf, MD



Gordon Ryon Moreland was born 5 Jun 1933, in Washington, DC, the son of George Guy Moreland and Catherine Audrey (Ryon) Moreland. Gordon lost his father when he was only 12. Gordon's mother lived with him and his wife and survived him by only one week.

Gordon was a resident of Charles County, MD, for most of his life, graduating from La Plata High School. He attended the University of Maryland for a year and was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Gordon received a congressional appointment to West Point, entering with the Class of 1957 in July 1953. As a cadet, Gordon was noted for his easy style of accommodation to the trials of "The System," never allowing it to change his relaxed manner. Gordon had "an insatiable desire to Beat Navy" and closely followed Army football. He was active in seven cadet clubs, including the French, Pistol, and Skeet Clubs. In his last two years at West Point, Gordon was elected by his Company I-1 classmates to represent the company on the Cadet Honor Committee. This was an early indication of Gordon's reputation for integrity and sound judgment. In addition, he was on the *Bugle Notes* committee for three years and served as the editor of *Bugle Notes* during his final year at West Point.

Upon graduation, Gordon selected the Armor. While attending Armor Basic at Ft. Knox, he became a frequent guest at Jack and Sandy Apperson's home. Gordon loved hunting and at Ft. Knox he found time to hunt squirrels. According to his classmate and company mate, Jack Apperson, "Gordon once brought over what looked like

skinned rats for Sandy to fry for Sunday dinner. It was one of the worst meals ever!" After completing the basic course at Ft. Knox, Gordon served in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Meade.

In 1961, Gordon left the Army and entered Georgetown University Law School, graduating in 1965. He took the Maryland bar examination in July 1965 and achieved the highest score of over 400 candidates. From then until his passing on 10 Jul 2001, he was in the private practice of law in Charles County, MD. For several years, he also served as a Charles County trial magistrate.

Gordon met his future wife, Elizabeth "Beth" Addison, through a mutual friend. Beth had a college degree in English and had served for three years as a county probation officer. They were married in 1963. Gordon continued his law practice while Beth joined the staff of the Inspector General's office at Andrews AFB.

In 1967, Gordon's law office assistant unexpectedly resigned. Gordon called on Beth for help. The abrupt resignation turned into a blessing for Gordon. Beth was perfectly matched for her new position as Gordon's assistant. As a result, they worked together for over 30 years. Of those years, Beth recalls that

"Gordon was well-liked by family, friends, associates and clients. I recall some tangled cases which involved a lot of research and long hours on his part, yet he was determined to stay with them until he got the best results for his clients.

A former West Point roommate remembers Gordon as follows: "Gordon was an exceptionally fine roommate. He was kind, considerate of others, cheerful and blessed with a great dry sense of wit and humor. He was well known for being a terrific friend. We usually sat together at Army football games. When things went badly for the Army

team, Gordon would look at me saying: 'Say it isn't true.'"

During Gordon's last years, we were in touch via regular phone calls. Gordon was such an exceptionally fine person and friend that it is not surprising to discover that he is missed by many.

Not long after Gordon's death, I was on a flight from Baltimore. Immediately before takeoff, a couple boarded and was forced to take widely separated middle seats. I was in an aisle seat next to one of them and overheard them asking a flight attendant for help. I offered to exchange seats with one. As I gathered my things, I asked them where they were from. When they replied Waldorf, I said that I recently had lost a close friend from Waldorf. They asked for his name. When I replied it was Gordon Moreland, their faces lit up as they both spoke of how Gordon had been a dear friend, as well as their family attorney, for years and of how very much they missed him.

Gordon enjoyed doing many things and thought that "one never stops learning." If he became interested in a subject, then he felt he had to learn all he could about it to better appreciate it. This applied to his gardening and his interest in wine—its history, growing areas and grape types. He studied the art of cooking and enjoyed cooking; gumbo was a favorite. He was very interested in chess and was an avid reader of many subjects.

Gordon passed away in his sleep. He is survived by his wife Beth and many cousins.

He is greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Very truly I tell you; whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

John 5:24

—Tom Adcock, classmate, with invaluable help from Beth Moreland, his wife

