

Don Bowman '53

2012 Distinguished Alumni Award



Don C. Bowman '53 was born in Tampa, Florida and came to Dallas in 1949 where he graduated from HPHS in 1953. Don was an involved high school student, served as a manager for the Scot basketball team, ran track, and was an officer in the ROTC. Don attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; graduating in 1957 and receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. He attended a number of schools for junior officers, most notably the Airborne and Ranger Schools. After qualification as both a Paratrooper and a Ranger, he was assigned as a Platoon Leader to the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. The title of Ranger designates him as one of the most physically and mentally tough officers in the United States Army. Don spent his career working with elite infantry units, and as a young officer, he chaired the Pathfinder Department of the Infantry School, and developed the doctrine used by Pathfinders throughout the Vietnam War. After more than 20 years in the Army, Don retired and settled in Columbus, Georgia, beginning a second career as a CPA. He maintains that successful practice today. Don has received numerous awards and honors, culminating with his induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame in July of last year. He proudly wears the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with the "V" for valor, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with the Palm, the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and many more. We are honored by his service to our country and are proud to award the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award to Don C. Bowman