CAPTAIN GARVIS POLLARD JR.
US ARMY 1967-1972

NO SCALAWAGS IN PLUM BAYOU TOWNSHIP

Garvis M. Pollard Jr. was "reared" on a farm near Althemier in the Arkansas river valley of South Arkansas. Althemier was home to Tail Dragger Jones (American Singer) and James S. McDonnell (Aviation Pioneer). In 1967 Garvis graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. While attending the university, Garvis enrolled in the advanced Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) program and upon graduation was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Army Intelligence. Garvis completed the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning Georgia and later the Security Agency Officer Basic course at Fort Devens, Maine.

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MEDDLING MOTHERS

While Garvis was training at Fort Devens near Boston, his mother clipped a newspaper article and picture from their local newspaper in Arkansas detailing a young lady's graduation from American Airlines Stewardess School and assignment to Boston. She told him to look her up. Garvis did just that *(to be continued...)*

INTELLIGENCE IN VIETNAM? NO REALLY!

Aerial view of Davis Station

Pollard was assigned as Executive Officer of the Headquarters and Service company of the 509th group at Ton Son Hnut air base in Saigon in the Republic of South Vietnam. As the "XO" he was the designated MP/Security Guard officer, mail officer, local nationals officer, assistant headquarters Commandant, transient officer, the list was seemingly endless! Among his duties at the time was supporting and distributing local and stateside donations of clothing, toys, and food to a local orphanage of 250 children.

1967 Christmas party for the orphanage

After about twelve months at group headquarters, Garvis was reassigned as a platoon leader, 1st Detachment of the 330th
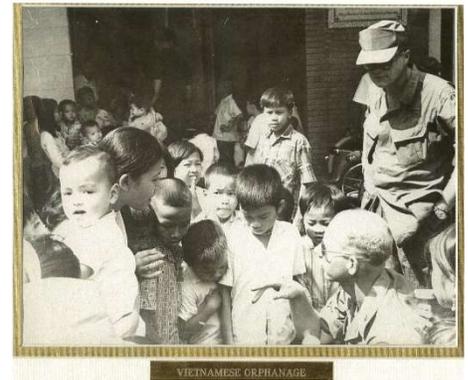
Radio Research Company. He would serve the next six months directly supporting the post commander at An Khe in the Central Highland of South Vietnam. During the period late 1967 to early 1969 Garvis processed a top-secret, special intelligence clearance and attended numerous high level military briefings.

RETURN TO THE STATES

After 18 months of deployment in South Vietnam, Captain Pollard was assigned for his last twelve months of active duty to the U.S. Army Military Intelligence school at Fort Holabird MD. The U.S. Army Intelligence School and Counterintelligence Records Facility was there until closed and transferred to Fort Huachuca in Arizona in 1971. Here, he served as a team leader while training enlisted, officers and foreign officer personnel. During his three years of active duty, Garvis was awarded three-unit citations, two Army commendation medals and the Bronze Star. *He is grateful to reflect that, "I got more out of the army than the army got out of me!"*

POST ARMY LIFE

After leaving the Army, Pollard was employed in the various fields of health physics and science education and held numerous leadership positions in information technology, sales and salesforce training in both the government and private sector. With his military service to our country complete, Garvis earned a Master of Science degree.

Garvis later transitioned into teaching high school science and history at the Fort Zumwalt School District alternative high school, Hope High, for seven years before officially retiring. Throughout his life, Garvis has been involved with numerous charitable organizations. Garvis is a past board member of the St. Peters Chamber of Commerce, a former "Big Brother" and a past chairperson of Sales and Marketing Executives of Metro St. Louis. He is also a retired member of the Missouri National Education Association.

Oh yes…Who was that young lady in the graduation picture from the American Airlines Stewardess School? The beautiful woman in the picture was Pollard's future wife, Patricia Turpin. In June 2019 they celebrated their 50-wedding anniversary. Thank God for meddling mothers and an Army man with intelligence!