



Nelson Powers

Passed Away September 20, 2006

Santa Fe, NM

PRAYER

READINGS FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES

REMEMBRANCES

**HYMN#438 in the blue Presbyterian Hymnal "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"*

THE FAMILY'S INVITATIONS

CLOSING PRAYER

POSTLUDE

KELSON ROGER POWERS

Born September 23, 1946

San Diego, California

Died September 20, 2006

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Rev. Robert H. Barnes, Officiating

Marilyn Penner, Organist Grace Nadell, Pianist

Tribute to Nelson Powers upon his Retirement from Military Service, May, 2003

Lieutenant Colonel Nelson R. Powers is a second generation Californian, born in San Diego. After receiving a BS Degree in Zoology and an MS Degree in Biology from San Diego State University, he received a PhD in Entomology from the University of California. During this period he served as an enlisted member in the U.S. Army Reserve in San Diego, California. Upon completion of his doctorate he accepted a Post-Doctoral Fellowship with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria. As part of a research team he worked on biological control of the cassava mealy bug in Western Africa, and as a result of this team effort, he was project director on behalf of the institute and awarded the World Food Prize. Lieutenant Colonel Powers also holds a National Public Health Fellowship from the University of Texas Health Science Center and was a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. He was also chosen for Who's Who: Science and Engineering.

In 1980, Lieutenant Colonel Powers received a direct commission with the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Department, Medical Service Corps as an Entomologist. This decision was greatly influenced by two university professors, Dr. Earl Oatman and Professor Calvert Norland. Dr. Oatman served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines at the outbreak of WWII and is a survivor of the Bataan Death March. Professor Norland, served as an U.S. Army Entomologist in the Hainan-Burma Campaign in WWII fighting malarial and dengue epidemics.

His first assignment was at Letterman Army Institute of Research, Presidio, California, as director of the genetic toxicology laboratory, and he also served as Director for Good Laboratory Practices ensuring institute compliance with all applicable federal laws.

His next assignment was at Fort Hood, Texas with Darnall Army Community Hospital, Preventive Medicine Services as an entomologist. During this time he was deployed to Honduras and served as the Staff Entomologist to Joint Task Force Bravo, where he was responsible for vector borne disease surveillance and control to protect deployed U.S. forces in country. Upon return to Fort Hood, he developed a cooperative agreement with the Texas Department of Health, laboratory Services to conduct surveillance for Lyme disease and vector control training areas.

In 1988, he was assigned to the Republic of Korea and served as Commander of the LA Detachment at Yong San. As commander he was responsible for providing entomological support to U.S. forces throughout the Republic of Korea. He also ensured that military retrograde cargo met standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture to be free of organisms that could pose an agricultural threat to the United States of America.

Following command he was assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas with Brooke Army Medical Center, Preventive Medicine Services as a medical entomologist. Concurrently, he also served as entomologist for Joint Military Medical Command at San Antonio, Texas.

From 1992 to 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Powers was assigned to the Republic of Panama as Chief Entomologist with Preventive Medicine Services at Gorgas Army Community Hospital. He also served as an advisor, concerning the threat of mosquito borne dengue viruses, to the Embassy of the United States of America, in Costa Rica. While stationed in Panama he also worked with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on various joint entomological programs.

Upon return to the United States he was assigned to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD. He served as Chief of Readiness and Planning Division and as Chief of Operations, Mobilization and Security for preventive medicine deployments in support of U.S. forces. During this period he was also assigned to the Theater Area Medical Laboratory. He then assumed the position as Senior Staff Entomologist for the Entomological Sciences Division at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

He currently is serving as the Staff Entomologist, Environment and Safety, Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army (Commendation) Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He was also awarded the "A" Proficiency Designator for Entomology from the Surgeon General of the United States Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Powers has published several scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals on insects and health. In addition he serves as a peer reviewer for two scientific journals and is a member of several professional societies. He is married to Graciela Thorpe-Powers of Panama City, The Republic of Panama, who is a teacher at Hybla Valley School. On weekends they both volunteer at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC. Lieutenant Colonel Powers has accepted a position as a medical entomologist with the State of New Mexico, Department of Health, Office of Epidemiology, in Santa Fe.