

Kenneth D. Roach was born February 14, 1949, in Springfield, MO. He entered the U. S. Army from Bethlehem, PA, on July 27, 1967, and appointed a Warrant Officer (WO1) on August 26, 1968, after completion of helicopter flight school. He was assigned to the 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN). After completion of his first tour, he served as an instructor pilot at Hunter AAF, Savannah, GA. In August 1971, he returned to RVN and again assigned to the 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. He completed his second tour serving as an advisor with the 239th Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) Squadron and a member of Air Force Advisory Team 1

During his two tours of duty, Ken was awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, two Air Medals with “V” device for Valor and the numeral 27, the Army Commendation Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal with 7 Campaign Stars, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Vietnam Air Service Medal, and Vietnam Air Force Pilot Wings.

Ken served for over 20 years as a Supervisory Aviation Safety Inspector with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, CT. He served in the Connecticut Army National Guard flying the CH-47D helicopter for over 20 years. In January 2009, he retired from the FAA with over 29 years of federal service. He also retired from the Connecticut Army National Guard in December 2008 as a Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) with over 8000 flight hours and 41 years of total military service.

Ken is a member of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society. He is a life member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and the 101st Airborne Division

Association. He served as the National President of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association from 2001 to 2002. He is also a proud member of many hereditary societies.

Ken met his future wife, Joanne, while stationed at Hunter AAF, Savannah, GA. She was attending college in Savannah. They were married upon his return from his second tour of duty in Vietnam on September 2, 1972. They have been married for 53 years. They have two children, Kenneth III, and Kara.

Ken began his Masonic journey in Washington Lodge #70 A.F.& A.M. on November 13, 2006. He was raised by his Uncle, WB Robert M. Roach of Lafayette Lodge #199, on February 26, 2007. He continued his journey becoming a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason at the Valley of Hartford on April 19, 2008. Then continued in York Rite with Pythagoras Chapter No. 17, R.A.M., Wolcott Council No. 1, R.&S.M., concluding with his knighthood in Washington Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, on April 2, 2010.

He has served as Most Wise Master of Cyrus Goodell Chapter of Rose Croix 2015-2016. He also served as Eminent Commander of Washington Commandery No. 1 in 2020 and 2021.

On January 6, 2024, Ken was installed as Worshipful Master of Washington Lodge #70 and was extremely proud when his son, Kenneth III, followed him as Worshipful Master on January 4, 2025.