



Colonel Anthony J. Carbone



Tony Carbone died on Sunday, June 24, 2007. We grew up a mile apart in Medford, Massachusetts but didn't meet until 1961 on a snowy, frigid February night at Camp Kaiser, near the 38th Parallel in Unchon-ni, Korea. Later we served together in the 101st Airborne Division and have been friends ever since.

One day in 1992 at lunch, in a *by the way* fashion, Tony announced, "I've got cancer and they give me about six months." After lunch I asked him to come with me to meet a cloistered nun friend at the Poor Clare convent in Jamaica Plain. "O, Geez, I never met any nuns. I'll wait in the car." Long story short, he didn't wait in the car. Tony and Sister Mary Paul became close buddies. He said good-bye to her a few weeks ago.

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Tony loved life. He loved his wonderful wife, Edda, his four daughters and son and their families. He loved his friends and he loved Norwich University. Tony had a PhD in keeping in touch. He expected a lot from his friends and had no problem letting you know when you dropped the ball.

His quality of life for the past fifteen years was packed with love, laughs, family, friends, new grandchildren, big meals even when he couldn't eat, activities and hockey games at Norwich, and wicked suffering. Always suffering but almost never complaining and *never* feeling sorry for himself.

At the dedication of the Sullivan Museum and History Center at Norwich University, U. S. Army Chief of Staff, General Gordon R. Sullivan called Colonel Carbone the "face of Norwich." Tony graduated from Norwich in 1958 and embarked on a long and distinguished career as an officer in the United States Army. He served through the height of the cold war in the armored cavalry both at home and in seven overseas tours, including two combat assignments in Vietnam, one with Special Forces. In 1985 he returned to Norwich as Commandant. Tony retired from the military in 1988 and for the next ten years served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Norwich.

What was the book on Colonel Tony Carbone? Dedicated to his wife and family. Tough but fair. Strong opinions. Super high standards. Direct. Honest. Always did what he said he would do. Loyal. If you asked for an opinion, you got both barrels. Loved to eat with family and friends. Tony was a man of faith and quiet prayer; he didn't wear it on his sleeve but it was always there. Tony loved life even during these last fifteen years – no – make that especially during the last fifteen years. He needed his space and his quiet time but when he got rejuvenated, which didn't take too long, he was off and running. He had to be with family, friends, go to Norwich hockey games, and cook meals at his house for his much-loved Norwich hockey team. He hated eating alone.

No wonder last month when the doctors at Mass. General, before performing emergency surgery, asked him if he wanted to be resuscitated, Tony answered, "I want everything you've got." Why

not? Tony always gave everything he had to everything he did. A few years ago, I wrote the following Colonel Carbone story in this newsletter. This is typical Tony.

Tony Carbone, an old army buddy and life-long friend, lit his candle somewhat differently. He was the commanding officer of an armored tank battalion serving in Germany. The battalion had a history of serious racial problems that on occasion developed into actual fights. Tankers spend a lot of time living and patrolling in the field. When they sleep, which is rare, they sleep on the ground or on their tanks. It is very difficult duty and they look forward to returning to garrison. Before he took command, the GIs knew what to expect from this tough regular army colonel, "he always does what he says he is going to do."

One cold December morning, the no-nonsense, tough minded, highly respected commander held a formation to address the racial disturbances. Standing on a tank, he issued this command and promise to the assembled battalion: "The racial fights will stop right now. If they do not, the entire battalion will go to the field and remain there throughout the winter." Everyone knew that he meant what he said. The reality of freezing for four months was too high a price to pay for prejudice. The racial conflicts ended.

This passage from the Book of Micah (Chapter 6, Verse 8) is also typical Tony:

This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.