

JONATHAN HALKETT “Jonny” STOWELL

Jonny Stowell was born in Rumford, Maine on October 20th, 1945, the 7th of 12 children. He attended West Bethel schools and Crescent Park middle school before entering Gould Academy, class of 1964. At Gould he was active in track and the Camera Club. As a young man he worked on the Edmond Smith farm in West Bethel and later on logging jobs with Arthur Head. He enlisted in the Army in 1966 and graduated from basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He completed advanced training in Finance at Fort Knox, Kentucky and was then stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He returned to Bethel to marry Rowena Gilbert, daughter of Ruth and Arthur Gilbert of West Bethel on September 23, 1967.

In March 1968 he was deployed to the 1st Logistical Command in Danang, Republic of Vietnam, and then subsequently to Cam Ranh Bay, returning to the United States in March 1969. Da Nang Air Base was the most northerly major U.S. air base in the Republic of Vietnam and one of four major support sites for the 50,000 soldiers supporting the U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV). The base was located in the northeast coastal area, 85 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. It was a favorite target of enemy gunners and was nicknamed “Rocket City” by the U.S. military. Jonny received the Vietnam Campaign Medal (Tet Counteroffensives), the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (individual and unit) medals, among other awards for his service.

After his tour in Vietnam, Jonny was assigned to the 101st Finance Division at Fort Devens, Massachusetts where he served as a pay distribution specialist until his honorable discharge in November, 1969. He lived in Ayer, Massachusetts (just outside Fort Devens) for five years before moving to Shirley, MA in April 1974. After his Army service, he worked for San-Val Corporation in Littleton, MA for twenty years and Bemis Associates Inc. in Shirley for seventeen years before retiring for good in 2009. Jonny developed an interest in history and family genealogy and was a member of the Woodstock, Greenwood, Bethel, Dixfield and Shirley Historical Societies.

Jonny and Rowena enjoyed almost 53 years of marriage and had two children, a daughter Melanie and a son Nathan. Jonny’s pride and joy was his grandson Wyatt Stowell. Jonny passed away at the age of 74 on July 18, 2020 due to complications of Agent Orange, a deadly herbicide widely used in Vietnam. He was proud to have served in the U.S. Army.



