Thomas W.Sabo MGen USAR (Retired)

May 21, 1944 – Oct. 18, 2016



Retired Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Thomas W. Sabo, of West Seneca, died on Oct. 18th at Batavia Veterans Affairs Medical Center after a lengthy illness. He was 72.

Born in Buffalo, he was a graduate of Cardinal Dougherty H.S. In 1966 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Adjutant General Corps through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Canisius College.

Assigned to the infantry, he was a platoon leader and company commander with the 34th Infantry Regiment in Germany, then was stationed at Fort Riley, Kan., before he was sent to Vietnam as Executive Officer in the Military Assistance Command. For his service in the Vietnam War, he was awarded a Bronze Star. Joining the 98th Division (Training) in1970, which trained Army Reserve drill sergeants, he became the division's Deputy Adjutant General in 1974.

He was selected as Commander of the 409th Personnel Services Company in 1976. Following his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he served as Deputy commander of the 98th Division's 4th Brigade in 1980.

He subsequently became Adjutant General of the 98th Division (Training) in 1981 and commander of the 4th Brigade in 1984, the year he was promoted to Colonel. He later was Deputy Commander of the 98th Division.

Promoted to Brigadier General in 1990, he was named Commanding General of the 98th Division in 1992 and was promoted to Major General in 1993.

During his time with the 98th Division, he oversaw two complete reorganizations of the division, including its conversion into an institutional training division. He relinquished his command of the division in 1996 and retired in 2001.

During his years in the Army Reserve, he also worked with Michael P. Guastella & Associates, an insurance company with offices in Hamburg, where he was Vice President of Operations.

His wife of 45 years, the former Lorie E. Foroscij, died in 2011.

Survivors include a daughter, Christie Makowski; a son, Peter; a sister, Elaine Ricketts, a brother, the Rev. Paul P. Sabo; and three grandchildren.