



## **EDWARD “NED” MONROE BONFOEY, JR** **SMA Coach, Educator and Commandant**



**(March 22, 1941 – December 16, 2017)**

Edward (Ned) Monroe Bonfoey Jr., age 76, of Virginia Beach, VA died December 16, 2017 after a long and brave battle fighting cancer. Notably, Ned kept a finely honed sense of humor throughout his battle. Ned was born in Quincy, Illinois on March 22, 1941. His parents, Mr. Edward M. Bonfoey and Mrs. Sarah Dean Bonfoey of Staunton, Virginia, preceded him in death.

Ned was a graduate of Virginia Episcopal School, attended the University of Virginia, and graduated from Lynchburg College earning a BA in economics and history and a master's degree in business, economics and education administration.

Ned was a veteran serving in the Virginia National Guard, US Army, and US Army Reserve and was an 11th Special Forces A Team Commander as a captain. Ned spent his life as a teacher of economics and AP American history at a number of schools as well as an adjunct professor of economics for James Madison University. Ned was a member of the Staunton Elks Lodge, a past president and board member of the Deerfield Telephone Company, a former board member of First and Merchants National Bank, a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, and an active attendee of Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in Staunton and Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Virginia Beach.

His first teaching job was at Dunbar High School in Lynchburg, VA. It was an all-black school and Lynchburg was being forced to integrate. Their first attempt at that was to place nine white teachers in the black schools. Ned was one of them. Of course, even then, he became involved in some of the students' lives. One boy didn't have adequate clothes or food, so he made it his business to find out why. The mother was a prostitute and this boy was stealing food to help his younger siblings. Ned went to Social Services and was very disheartened by what he discovered, which was that if a case worker solved the problems, he or she would be jeopardizing his or her

job by reducing the number of cases. Ned found work around our home in Lynchburg to help the boy earn money.

He returned to Staunton from the Army and Lynchburg, Virginia in 1968, to be an instructor at Staunton Military Academy and was coach of the SMA track and cross-country teams. He was very proud of his 1969 SMA track team and his 1970 cross-country team that both won Virginia Military School League Championships and in addition, the 1970 cross-country team won the state private school championship. He also formed a spelunking club and would take cadets to local caves and explore them. In 1972, Ned became Commandant of Cadets for Staunton Military Academy. From 1973 to 1996, Ned was a member of the Robert E. Lee High School faculty teaching AP American history and economics and was Department Chairman of the History department. He was also the girls' tennis coach as well as the head coach of the Lee High cross-country teams. Ned was very proud of his years in education and to paraphrase Will Rogers, "He never met a student he did not like."

Ned is survived by his loving wife Brenda Lilly Bonfoey and her son CPT Christopher E. Pennell, a son COL Edward M. Bonfoey III and his wife Elisa Emily Bonfoey, a daughter Kable B. Rizzo and husband LTC (Ret.) Robert K. Rizzo, two grandchildren Robert T. Rizzo and Kable K. Rizzo, a sister Katharine Burgdorf and husband LTC (Ret.) Carl Burgdorf of Hampton, Virginia, a cousin Marjorie Hays of Staunton, VA and a number of nieces and nephews.



**Memorial stone for Ned Bonfoey located in the Witz family crypt in Thornrose cemetery in Staunton, VA**