

Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Charles Richard Poulton Biography

Charles Richard Poulton (Charlie), Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5), USA (Ret), was born January 1, 1949, in Mount Vernon, OH. Charlie entered the Army in April 1968. He attended Basic training in Fort Gordon, Georgia and then completed Advanced Individual Training (AIT) to be a combat engineer in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He immediately volunteered to deploy to Vietnam where he served as a combat engineer and also served on a prisoner of war search team. Charlie served in 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, NC, 6th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright, AK, and 2nd Warrant Officer Company in Fort Rucker, AL. Charlie retired from the Army in June 2003 after 35 years of military service.

Charlie Poulton led the way as an NCO and as a Warrant Officer throughout his career and thereafter as a retiree. Charlie successfully completed the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1979, making him the first paralegal in the Army to earn a green beret. He was appointed as a Warrant Officer in 1981 and eventually became the first Company Commander of the 2d Warrant Officer Company. He was also the first Legal Administrator to be an instructor at the Warrant officer Career College. Charlie created the current electronic tax program which required him to identify vendors, coordinate with the IRS and teach classes to JAG personnel on the new system. Charlie created and established the Pre-Basic Course for JAG Officers which improved the readiness of our JAG Officers and prepared them for their follow-on assignments.

Chief Poulton's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; the Army Good Conduct Medal (fourth award); the National Defense Service Medal with two bronze service stars; the Vietnam Service Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze service stars; the NCO Professional Development Ribbon; the Army Service Ribbon; the Overseas Service Ribbon, third award; the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia); the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait); the Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation; Special Forces Tab; the Parachutist Badge; and the Air Assault Badge. Charlie has an associate's degree from Wilbur Wright College, a Bachelor of Science from Troy State University, and a Master of Science from the University of Phoenix.

After retirement, Charlie lived in Yuma, AZ where he got involved in dedicating his time to Veterans who were entered into hospice through the Yuma health system. He displayed compassion and dedication by ensuring that all veterans, including WWII and Korean War veterans, received their benefits. Charlie's professional competence enabled him to effectively support and assist veterans with burial arrangements including proper customs and courtesies. During his time in Yuma, AZ, Charlie also volunteered to provide tactical guidance to young Marines which included real-life scenarios conducted in the mountainous terrain of Arizona.

Charlie then relocated to Browerville, MN where he volunteered and voted on The Staples Veterans Park Committee. Charlie's significant contributions were vital to the upgrade of the park which entailed him raising over 30,000.00 dollars in two years. As a result of his efforts, the park is now recognized as a state-wide renowned Veterans Park. Charlie served on the Veterans Park Board from 2012-2014, while on this board he was asked by Lakewood Health Systems to become the Veteran Coordinator for the system area. Charlie gladly accepted this position and established the roles and responsibilities for a position that did not previously exist. Charlie took a program called Vet to Vet Program/We Honor Veterans from a

relative performance star rating level two to level four in 12 months. As a direct result of Charlie's selfless service and dedication, this health system became the second health system in MN to reach a relative performance star rating of four with the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, Charlie serves all hospice veterans in numerous ways including fulfilling requests by families and providing indispensable support during this time of need. Charlie's extensive knowledge and military experience enables him to support and assist in funerals with full military honors, which he has done on multiple occasions. Charlie has contributed significantly and conspicuously to the veteran's community. He currently holds the prestigious position of Sergeant of the Guard for the American Legion out of Motley, MN.

Charlie established a youth program at his church where he educates individuals every year on survival skills. This strenuous program includes archery, marksmanship, and numerous other challenging events which enable each participant to improve themselves on many levels. Charlie continues to represent the Army and the Warrant Officer Cohort commendably by making appearances as a guest speaker at numerous official events including Independence Day celebrations, Memorial Day services, and Veterans Day ceremonies. Charlie speaks at many High School ceremonies and answers all questions posed by curious young men and women that are considering the Army as a career.

In August 2018, Charlie, Estelle, and Ranger (Their Trusty Black Lab) sold their home in Minnesota and moved to Moravian Falls, NC where they presently live in a Log Cabin Home. Charlie and Estelle are very busy with their church duties there. Charlie is Director of Security and assist in grounds keeping and building maintenance. Charlie and Estelle are closer to their grand children and spend much more time visiting them.

Charlie married Estelle in 1974 only three months after their first date. They have been together for over 40 years now. They have two children, Chuck and Beau, and four grandchildren, Bella, Preston, Sadie and Alex. Chuck, their oldest son, is currently serving as a Major in the United States Marine Corps (25 years). He is the Operations Officer for Marine Wounded Warrior Program across the USA, and home based out of Camp Lejeune, NC. Beau is a graphic artist in Tampa, FL (19 years).

Additional Data

Enlisted Service: April 1968 - 1981

Source and Date of Commission: Warrant Officer Orientation, July 1981

Years of Active Commissioned/Warrant Service (Active Duty): 22 years

Total Years of Service: 35 years

<u>Military Education:</u>	<u>Year Completed</u>
Advanced Individual Training (Combat Engineer)	1968
Legal Clerk's Basic Course	1973
Legal NCO Advanced Course	1975
Basic Airborne School	1979
Special Forces Qualification Course	1979
WO Orientation Course at TJAGLCS	1981
25th ID Light Fighter's Course	1983
Air Assault School	1992
Warrant Officer Senior Course	1995

Educational Degree:

Associate's Degree, Wilbur Wright College

Bachelor of Science, Troy State University

Master of Science, University of Phoenix

Decorations and Badges:

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Two oak leaf clusters

Army Commendation Medal

Two oak leaf clusters

Good Conduct Medal

Fourth award

National Defense Service Medal

Two bronze service stars

Vietnam Service Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal

Two bronze service stars

NCO Professional Development Ribbon

Army Service Ribbon

Overseas Service Ribbon

Third award

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Emirate of Kuwait)

Special Forces Tab

Parachutist Badge

Air Assault Badge

Unit Citations:

Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation

Chronological list of Appointments:

WO1 7 July 1981

CW2 7 July 1983

CW3 1 November 1988

CW4 1 November 1994

CW5 1 February 2000

Chronological Record of Duty Assignments:

111th Water Supply Company, Quang Tri, Vietnam
5th and 33d Training Battalions , Fort Knox, KY
106th Transportation Battalion, Russelsheim, Germany
716th Military Police Battalion, Fort Riley, KS
3d Medical Battalion, 3d ID, Aschaffenburg, Germany
10th Special Forces Group, Fort Devens, MA
Headquarters, Fort Rucker, AL
25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI
XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC
6th Infantry Division Fort Wainwright, AK
Warrant Officer Career College, Fort Rucker. AL
TJAGLCS, Charlottesville, VA
USASOC, Fort Bragg, NC

March 1969-April 1970
April 1970-December 1970
December 1970-March 1973
April 1973-December 1975
December 1975-November 1979
November 1979- July 1981
August 1981-September 1983
September 1983- June 1986
June 1986-July 1991
July 1991-July 1995
July 1995- November 1999
November 1999-June 2002
June 2001- June 2003

Military Associations:

Veteran to Veteran Association
American Legion
Staples MN Veteran Park Association Board
Association of the Military Legal Administrators

Private Organizations:

Motely Free Methodist Church