

## 2LT Harold B. “Pinky” Durham, Jr.



Durham Hall, the OCS Hall of Fame and Museum, was originally the Brigade HQ Building of the Officer Candidate School, located at the entrance to Robinson Barracks. Ownership of Building T-3025 was transferred from Fort Sill to the OCS Alumni Chapter of the U.S. Field Artillery Association, and it is maintained as a tribute to the thousands of future officers who passed through the Fort Sill Officer Candidate School from 1941 to 1973.

Durham Hall was dedicated on May 20, 1999, and named in honor of 2LT Harold B. “Pinky” Durham, Jr., who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for action in the Battle of Ong Thanh, Republic of Vietnam, on October 17, 1967. 2LT Durham was a graduate of Artillery OCS Class 1- 67, and was serving in Vietnam as a Forward Observer in Battery C, 6th Battalion, 15th Artillery,

in support of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry (“Black Lions”), 1st Infantry Division, during a battalion reconnaissance-in-force mission.

2LT Durham demonstrated “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity” during the operation, exemplifying the role of the Field Artillery in combat operations, as indicated by the following extracts from his Medal of Honor citation:

“While he was moving to replace the wounded observer, the enemy detonated a claymore mine, severely wounding him in the head and impairing his vision. In spite of the intense pain, he continued to direct the supporting artillery fire and employ his individual weapon...With his last effort, 2LT Durham shouted a warning to a nearby soldier who immediately killed the insurgents. 2LT Durham died moments later, still gripping the radio handset...2LT Durham’s gallant actions in close combat with an enemy force are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.”

This plaque is presented by Artillery OCS Class 1-67, in memory of Pinky Durham, a friend, classmate, brother in arms, and fallen comrade, on June 16, 2006.