

REINER

Dr. Raphael A. Reiner
LTC US Army Artillery



Ray Reiner died on October 13, 2008. He was born in New Jersey on March 17, 1927. In 1944 at age 17 and during World War II, he volunteered to serve in the United States Army as an Infantry private. He performed active federal military service in the United States Army for over 25 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel of Artillery in 1970. At his retirement he was Director and Executive Officer of Plans and Operations for the US Army Air Defense Board, Ft. Bliss, Texas. Awards received by Colonel Reiner include the Army Commendation Medal, American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Legion of Merit. During his ten + years overseas he served in the European Theatre, England, Turkey and Korea. He graduated in the top echelon of the U. S. Army's Turkish language facility as well as the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. During his career he earned a Bachelor of English and History, a degree in Law, a Master of Arts in English and History and a Doctorate of Administration at New Mexico State University where he was selected as outstanding Alumnus for 1988. Following the earning of the doctorate in 1973, he was employed by the Office of Academic Affairs at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Reiner retired from Sam Houston State University in 1995 as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Emeritus. He was recognized by the Texas State Senate for

his service to Texas. Ray, the man was respected and loved for his intelligence, his courage, his wit and his honesty. Ray valued classical music, languages and fine Literature. He crafted clocks, china cabinets and black powder rifles, took photographs, painted, wrote stories, read extensively and managed his computers. He was a marksman with pistol and rifle and took pleasure in a good knife. His particular passions were amusing his German shepherds and fresh water biology. His depth of knowledge was exceptional; he was a life-long learner and teacher. Ray's most admired trait was his deep love for and his willingness to serve his Country. He was a good husband and father. He and his wife, Leta, had a deep and abiding love for each other which was expressed daily. But he believed that his greatest accomplishment was Lisa, his daughter. On his final Veteran's Day his daughter expressed her appreciation to him for his service to our country. His emailed answer was: "I should thank the United States Army...it has taught me the true meaning of service and love of one's country. Each morning I am proud to salute the beautiful American flag in front of our house and reaffirm what it represents to me. Duty, Honor, Country." Found among his military effects after his death was a personal note he had written on the day of his retirement from the Army that reads, "I take off this hat 31 July 1970, with mixed pride and sadness. I have worn its eagle proudly for 25 years. God Bless My Country." Ray is deeply loved. but "he has crossed the river and will rest under the shade of the trees." Services for LTC R. A. Reiner will be March 17, 2009, 10:00 AM at Fort Bliss National Cemetery at the West Shelter. leta@suddenlink.net