



Stephen Paul Rauch
Specialist 5 U.S. Army
3 October 1966 – 25 September 1968

Stephen was born on 21 July 1947, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to **Ray Russell Rauch**, an Army veteran of World War II, and **Adele Sara (German) Rauch**. At Stephen's birth, his parents were living and working at The Jordan Inn in Pleasant Corner, Pennsylvania, a business/restaurant owned by Ray's father **Victor Rauch**. By Stephen's second birthday, they moved to 3356 Main Street in Neffs, Pennsylvania. In 1960, they and Stephen's younger sister Sarajane, who was born there, moved to 2705 Main Street in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, where Stephen's father had started a business—Ray's Men Shop. Stephen attended Schnecksville Elementary School and graduated from Parkland High School in 1965. After high school, he studied Automotive Technology & Repair at Williamsport Technical Institute. His schooling was interrupted when he was drafted and inducted into the Army at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on 3 October 1966. He underwent basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and was then assigned to U.S. Army Transportation School at Fort Eustis, Virginia, for advanced specialty training in aircraft sheet metal repair. Following that, he was transferred to the 517th Transportation Company ADS (Aircraft Direct Support) at Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, North Carolina, where he repaired aircraft at Simmons Army Airfield. Stephen served there until October 1967, when he was transferred back to Fort Eustis for eight weeks of specialty training in aircraft piston and turbine engine repair and maintenance—a critical specialty needed in Vietnam at the time.

With only eight months left in his two-year draft obligation, he received orders to Vietnam. He arrived in

Vietnam on 27 February 1968, during the Tet Offensive, and was assigned to the 604th Aircraft Direct Support Unit stationed at Camp Holloway Airfield near Pleiku Air Force Base. His unit was part of the 14th Transportation Battalion stationed in Na Trang, which was responsible for maintenance of all aircraft in Central Vietnam. By that time Stephen had been promoted to Specialist 5 and served there as Engine Shop Chief. In that capacity, he was responsible for ordering equipment and parts, and assigning duties to technicians/specialists to work on Huey UH-1 helicopters, OH-13 Bell



Camp Holloway



Pleiku Air Force Base

helicopters, Hughes 500 (Loach—light observation helicopters), and Cessna Bird-dog and De Havilland Otter fixed wing aircraft. Also, in Stephen's own words, "In my 'spare hours', I did art work and helped establish a photography shop which later was turned over to Camp Holloway as part of their perimeter security apparatus." Stephen also created and painted signs, along with security layouts for the camp. Stephen returned to the States and was released from active duty on 25 September 1968. He was then assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group at St. Louis, Missouri, for annual active duty training. For his service, Stephen was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal. Stephen returned home to Schnecksville and went to work as a mechanic for Wheel & Crawler Company in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania. In 1969, he returned to Williamsport Technical Institute (later renamed Penn State College of Technology), completing his studies in automotive technology as well as diesel engine and fuel injection systems repair in 1970. He then moved to Slatington, Pennsylvania. Stephen married **Charlene McCallister** on 13 October 1973, who grew up in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, and was a nursing instructor at Lehigh County Community College when they met. His sister Sarajane was one of Charlene's students in the Practical Nursing program and had fixed them up on a blind date. Stephen then went to work for the Melroe Division of Clark Equipment Co., headquartered in Gwinner, North Dakota, as the East Coast Bobcat Service and Parts Representative. He and Charlene continued to live in Slatington until 2001, where they raised their two sons **Andrew Michael** and **Travis Mitchell**. Travis later served in the Navy, retiring as a Commander. In 1978, Stephen started his own business, Scat Enterprises, Inc., in Slatington, which he continued as owner and president until 1996, when he sold his company to CSI Enterprises, Inc. in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a Clark Equipment dealer. While there, he developed an Occupational Safety and Health Administration-compliant operator safety training program for fork lifts, aerial lifts, and Bobcat skid steer loaders. Later, he managed rental and sales of the Aerial Lift Division until he retired in 2010. In 2001, Stephen and Charlene had moved to Alburtis, Pennsylvania, where they are currently living. Both of them became active members of the Lower Macungie Township Historical Society (LMTHS), donating items and volunteering for projects and events, including co-authoring and illustrating with his sister and current president of LMTHS, **Sarajane Rauch Williams**, a book entitled "Rauch, Handwerk & Co. Builders, Jordan, PA – A Family's Contribution to Early Transportation and Commerce."