



# Robroy Industries Welcomes You To An Evening With Medal Of Honor Recipient

## BRUCE P. CRANDALL



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Major, U.S. Army • Place and date: la Drang Valley, Vietnam.,14 November 1965.

Bruce P. Crandall distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism as a Flight Commander while serving with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). His flight of sixteen helicopters was lifting troops for a search and destroy mission from Plei Me, Vietnam, to Landing Zone X-Ray in the la Drang Valley. On the fourth troop lift, the airlift began to take enemy fire, and by the time the aircraft had refueled and returned for the next troop lift, the enemy had Landing Zone X-Ray targeted. As Major Crandall and the first eight helicopters landed to discharge troops on his fifth troop lift, his unarmed helicopter came under such intense enemy fire that the ground commander ordered the second flight of eight aircraft to abort their mission. As Major Crandall flew back to Plei Me, his base of operations, he determined that the ground commander of the besieged infantry battalion desperately needed more ammunition. Major Crandall then decided to adjust his base of operations to Artillery Firebase Falcon in order to shorten the flight distance to deliver ammunition and evacuate wounded soldiers.

While medical evacuation was not his mission, he immediately sought volunteers and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, led the two aircraft to Landing Zone X-Ray. Despite the fact that the landing zone was still under relentless enemy fire, Major Crandall landed and proceeded to supervise the loading of seriously wounded soldiers aboard his aircraft. Major Crandall's voluntary decision to land under the most extreme fire instilled in the other pilots the will and spirit to continue to land their own aircraft, and in the ground forces the realization that they would be resupplied and that friendly wounded would be promptly evacuated. This greatly enhanced morale and the will to fight at a critical time.

After his first medical evacuation, Major Crandall continued to fly into and out of the landing zone throughout the day and into the evening. That day he completed a total of 22 flights, most under intense enemy fire, retiring from the battlefield only after all possible service had been rendered to the Infantry battalion. His actions provided critical resupply of ammunition and evacuation of the wounded. Major Crandall's daring acts of bravery and courage in the face of an overwhelming and determined enemy are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

## Extraordinary!



Bruce Crandall retired from the Army in 1977 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Utilizing his master's degree in public administration, he became city manager of Dunsmuir, California for three years. He and his wife, Arlene, then moved to Mesa, Arizona, where he served in the Public Works Department for 13 years, the last four as the public works manager. In 2001, he was an aviation consultant on a movie, *We Were Soldiers*, about the la Drang Valley battle. In the movie, Bruce "Snake" Crandall was portrayed by Greg Kinnear. The Crandalls, who have been married since 1956, live in Manchester, Washington and have three sons and five grandchildren.

