

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

HALL OF FAME

COL William C. Comee, Jr., USA (Ret) 1961 JC

William C. "Bill" Comee, Jr. served as a leader in the Corps of Cadets and was a ROTC contract cadet graduating in the Class of 1961 from the junior college division of New Mexico Military Institute.

He then attended Texas A & M and was commissioned at graduation. He served 23 years 4 months on active duty, retiring with the rank of Colonel.

During his service, William served a tour in Vietnam in 1966. He was a First Lieutenant serving in Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile). During this tour, he was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry. His citation reads as follows:

For Gallantry in action: First Lieutenant Comee distinguished himself on 20 February 1966 while serving as commanding officer during a combat operation in the Republic of Vietnam. After receiving hostile fire from an estimated company of Viet Cong, the lead element of First Lieutenant Comee's company sustained several casualties.

When an element of the second platoon became pinned down by the intense hostile fire, First Lieutenant Comee immediately went forward to the area where the intense fighting was taking place to better control the company. He rallied his men and, by firing an M-16 rifle and throwing grenades, successfully repelled a numerically superior Viet Cong assault. First Lieutenant Comee's outstanding courage was an inspiration to his entire company and was instrumental in the defeat of the Viet Cong force. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a hostile force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

William Comee's Valor in close combat demonstrates service above self, reflecting great credit to his family, his country, and particularly to New Mexico Military Institute. These are the standards expected of individuals inducted into the New Mexico Military Institute Alumni Hall of Fame and further supports our credo of Duty, Honor, and Achievement.

Inducted for Valor this 22nd day of October in the year 2021

LTC Danny L. Armijo, NMMI 1972 JC
NMMI Alumni Relations Director

Jerry W. Grizzle, Ph.D.
Major General, USA (Ret)
NMMI Superintendent/President