



B-52

KC-135



F-4



F-100

B-57

Stephen Dennis Bandura Jr.
Sgt. USAF 23 June 1964 – 21 June 1968

Stephen was born on 24 December 1946 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. On 23 June 1964, 12 days after graduation from Whitehall-Coplay High School in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, he enlisted in the Air Force, and was sent to Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), San Antonio, Texas, for basic training with Flight 706, 3711 Basic Military Training Squadron (BMTS) until August 1964, and then underwent advanced training at Lackland with Flight 704-06, 3703 BMTS. In September 1964, he was ordered to Minot AFB, North Dakota, for on-the-job training with the Air Police for a month, and remained there until March 1966, serving as an Air Policeman in the 862 Combat Defense Squadron (CDS), 5th Bomb Group, Strategic Air Command, guarding KC-135 Tankers and B-52 Bombers that were on alert and armed with nuclear weapons. While home on leave during March 1966, Stephen was ordered to report to Hamilton AFB, California, for M-16 rifle and M-60 machine gun training. In April 1966, he left for Vietnam, where initially he was attached to the 366th Air Police Squadron, 7th Bomb Group, at Phan Rang Air Base, providing protection for F-4, F-100, and B-57 aircraft, POL trucks and bladders, the bomb dump, and base perimeter. In January 1967, he was reassigned to the 35th Air Police Squadron, 7th Bomb Group, at Tuy Hoa Air Base, where he provided base protection along with the Republic of Korea Marines until April 1967. The Air Force was building a runway, and a harbor was being dredged there. Stephen was then transferred to Kessler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi, where he patrolled the base and served as a Corrections Officer for the Security Police Squadron, 3380th Air Base Group, and Air Training Command until his discharge on 21 June 1968. After his discharge, Stephen returned home to Cementon, Pennsylvania, where he worked at the Whitehall Cement Company for a year. He then attended school under the GI Bill, first at Lehigh County Community College (LCCC), Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, (September 1969 – May 1971), where he served as President of the LCCC Veterans Club while earning an Associate Degree in Police Science, and next at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Law Enforcement (September 1971 – May 1973). During that time he was President of the EKV Fraternity Veterans Club, President of the Kentucky Collegiate Veterans Association, and became a State-registered lobbyist. Stephen also attended Law Enforcement Graduate School at Eastern Kentucky University from September 1973 to May 1974. He then worked, successively, for the Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department (June 1974 – January 1981) on uniform patrol, vice/narcotics squads, crisis intervention, and plain-clothes investigation; Lehigh County Community College (January 1981 – February 1983) as Instructor/ Coordinator for the Criminal Justice Program, and member of a Faculty Negotiation Team for which he chaired the Grievance Committee; Adjunct Faculty Criminal Justice Programs at LCCC & DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania (1983 – 1987); 1st National Bank of Allentown and Meridian Bank of Reading, Pennsylvania, as Fraud Investigator and Corporate Security Officer while living in Paoli, Pennsylvania, and Reading, respectively (1983 – 1994); and as a Commercial Security System Consultant in Allentown (1994 – 2005). In 2005, he joined the Office of Special Investigation, Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, in Philadelphia as a Fraud Investigator. Stephen married **Deborah Lynn Hendricks** on 7 September 1996 in Center Square, Pennsylvania. They settled in Perkasio, Pennsylvania. Stephen has two stepchildren, **Andrew Smith** and **Lauren Smith**. Stephen's parents were **Stephen Bandura** (10 November 1918 – 20 May 1990) and **Helen V. Saganowich** (29 October 1922 – 4 May 2004). Stephen's uncles, **Paul Bandura** and **Stephen Bandura**, served in the Army during World War II, and **William Walter Bandura** served in the Army from 1948 to 1952.