

CAPTAIN ROBERT J. HILER, JR.

VETERANS MEMORIAL

Born January 11, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois, Bob Hiler was raised in Walkerton, Indiana and served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1971. As an Infantry officer during the Vietnam Conflict, Bob was awarded the Purple Heart medal for injuries sustained in battle. He also distinguished himself through multiple acts of heroism during combat operations for which he was awarded three Bronze Star Medals, including one for combat gallantry for his actions during a battle in May 1968.

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

For heroism in connection with military actions involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam:

FIRST LIEUTENANT HILER

distinguished himself by valorous actions on the morning of 17 May 1968, while serving as a Platoon Leader with Company A, 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, on a combat mission in Long An Province, Vietnam. The forward element of his platoon was cut down by heavy fire within 10 meters of an enemy bunker complex. Completely disregarding his own safety, Lieutenant Hiler crawled 20 meters under heavy fire to a wounded man's position, destroying a bunker along the way with a well-aimed grenade. Lieutenant Hiler then pulled the casualty back across the open area to safety. First Lieutenant Hiler's personal bravery and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Division and the United States Army.

Following military service, Bob returned to La Porte, Indiana to join the family business. During the succeeding 32 years, he became a successful businessman, philanthropist and community leader. He served as chief financial officer for his family businesses and as a trusted member of the board of directors of numerous businesses and non-profit organizations. His highly inquisitive mind and keen interest in social causes and politics led him to become a very active member of the Republican Party. Serving at the local, state and national levels, he was known to many as "Mr. Republican" and was among the most influential Republicans in Indiana. Bob died on February 5, 2003.



Dedicated October 16, 2018

Made possible by the Robert J. Hiler Family Foundation and Catherine and John Hiler