

Roy Elsworth Congleton (1932 — 1964)



Roy Congleton was born in Chadbourn, NC on March 5, 1932. He attended NC State College and graduated in 1954.

As an Army ROTC cadet, Roy was initiated into the initial class of L-4 PRs in 1953 making him a charter member of L-4. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Infantry Branch.

Congleton was assigned to Special Detachment-5891, Headquarters Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) at the time of his death on December 21, 1964. Congleton served as an advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). While accompanying an ARVN unit on a search and destroy mission 25 miles northwest of Saigon, they were ambushed by the Viet Cong. During the engagement, Congleton suffered fatal gunshot wounds to the chest. To date, he is the only known L-4 PR to be killed in action.

The National Society of the Pershing Rifles Alumni Association lists Major Roy E. Congleton as one of its most Distinguished Alumni.

Roy was laid to rest in Raleigh, NC in the Raleigh National Cemetery, Section 14, site 1120.

William Kenneth Etheridge (1948 — 2015)



Kent Etheridge was born in Hassell, NC on January 11, 1948. He attended NC State University but was commissioned without graduating. He graduated from the University of Nebraska (Omaha) after commissioning and a tour of duty.

As an Army ROTC cadet, Kent was initiated into the L-4 PRs in 1966. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Military Intelligence Branch. He served a tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam and remained in the army finishing his career as a major.

Etheridge is the patriarch of the alumni association. Had it not been for his efforts to organize a reunion of L-4 PRs in 2010, the L-4AA, Inc. would not exist.

In 2014 the Pershing Rifles Group inducted Major Etheridge into the Honourable Order of the General of the Armies John Joseph Pershing. He is the forty-first PR to have been bestowed the title Knight Commander of the Third Degree, the Group's highest award.

Kent died June 17, 2015 of pancreatic cancer, and was laid to rest in Hamilton, NC.