



Brigadier General Charles Henry Schilling

Cullum No. 12262 • Class of 1941

Died 5 November 1996 in Clarksville, TN, at the age of 78

CHARLES HENRY SCHILLING was born in Kentucky 3 June 1918. He spent one year at the Citadel before entering West Point. He played varsity basketball as a cadet, and graduated 23rd in his class. Upon graduation he was commissioned into the Engineers.

Schilling's first assignment was with the 23rd Armored Engineer Battalion of the 3rd Armored Division. During World War II, he took command, as a lieutenant colonel, of the 165th Combat Engineer Battalion (Separate) in the XV Corps and led it in action against the Germans in both France and Germany. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

After the war, Schilling acquired his master's degree in civil engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. He then went on to command the 831st Army Engineer Battalion and the 862nd Army Engineer Battalion, which helped expand and upgrade Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany. After attending the Command and General Staff College, he taught engineering at West Point from 1951 through 1955.

As a colonel, Schilling served as the Area Engineer for all military construction in Iceland. In 1956 he was chosen to be a permanent professor of engineering at West Point and held this position for twenty-four years. In 1959 he earned his Ph.D. in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

General Schilling retired from active duty in 1980, at which time he was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal. He was the last member of the Class of 1941 to leave active duty after thirty-nine years of commissioned service. General Schilling started a second career designing foundations for electric power generation and transmission systems.

In 1998, at the suggestion of the U.S. Military Academy Department of Engineering, his classmates established the Charles Henry Schilling Award for Excellence in Civil Engineering, presented annually to the graduating cadet with the highest grade point average in that subject.