

## Florentino “Chui” Banuelos



Chui served in the 7<sup>th</sup> RRU in 1966, the Second Platoon of the 101<sup>st</sup> RRC in 1966-1967, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon of the 101<sup>st</sup> RRC in a subsequent, extended, tour in 1967-1969.

Continued camaraderie and communication among COMSEC veterans being very important to Chui, he constructed a well-traveled website about the 7<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> and later started up two Yahoo Groups for COMSEC/SIGSEC personnel. These groups he later migrated to Google when Yahoo eliminated their groups feature.

Chui succumbed to Parkinson’s Disease, presumed to have been caused by exposure to Agent Orange when serving in Vietnam.

## Florentino Banuelos Obituary

Nov. 13, 1946 - Jan. 23, 2022

Florentino Banuelos II, beloved husband, father, brother, uncle and friend passed away peacefully on January 23, 2022 at the age of 75 in San Leandro, California.

Tino, a nickname used by all who knew him was born in 1946 in Berkeley, California to parents Florentino S. and Elisa Banuelos. He attended San Lorenzo High School and after graduating enlisted in the Army in June of 1965. He served his country fighting in three consecutive tours of duty with the Elite division of the ASA, Army Security Agency during wartime situation in Vietnam. He recalled his 31 months servicing in Vietnam stating, "I was present for the festivities at Tet 68, an NVA artillery bombardment at Dong Ha, and other lively events."

After the Army, Tino held different jobs and attended college off and on in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1977, he moved to Hawaii and earned a BA in Art History from the University of Hawaii in 1983. While living in Hawaii he met his wife Cynthia and they were married in 1981. They moved back to San Leandro, California in 1983. They were blessed with their son, Andrew

who was born on November 1, 1988. Tino and Cynthia celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on November 20, 2021. In 1988, Tino started working at the Alameda County Office of Education- Healthy Kids Resource Center as the shipping clerk. Before retiring in 2010 he was working as the Resource Database Specialist.

Tino, also known as "Chui" amongst his army buddies was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was the Webmaster for the National Army Security Agency Association and his own Chui101 websites forming a platform of communication and community for fellow ASA veterans. He is survived by his wife Cynthia, son Andrew, two brothers Jose and Frank Sr. and his nieces and nephews.