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**A Biography  
Of  
Bob Rogers**

**Quick:**



**Bob Rogers**, an IBMer for thirty-three years, is the president of Global Medical Data, Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is a former US Army captain, a veteran of the Vietnam War, and was a charter member of the Baltimore, Maryland chapter of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (Horse) Cavalry Association. Bob lives in Charlotte.

**Brief:**

In 1966, Bob Rogers was a Distinguished Military Graduate at South Carolina State University. He served his country as an army officer for four years, departing at the rank of captain in 1970. Bob was a paratrooper and led soldiers of the army's A Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry during the Vietnam War.

Bob joined IBM in 1970 and held many staff and management positions and retired after 33 years with the company.

He is the founder and president of Global Medical Data, Inc. His company provides electronic health records services for physician practices and clinics in North Carolina and Texas.

Bob's first novel was published in October 2009. His next novel was released in December of 2011.

Bob and his wife have a daughter, four sons, three daughters-in-law, a son-in-law, and six grandchildren. He and his wife make their home in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Full:**

Until 1955, author, former US Army officer, and former IBMer Bob Rogers' mother and father had shielded him the harsh reality of life under Jim Crow law. It was then that Bob read for himself, accounts of the brutal murder of 14 year old Emmett Till in Mississippi that summer. Just two years younger than Till, Bob read and re-read stories about the cruel and ghastly murder in his hometown Spartanburg, South Carolina newspaper, Jet Magazine, and the Afro-American. As he imagined himself in Till's place, an indelible impression about race matters in America was made on Bob.

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During his developmental years, further lasting impressions were made on Bob. From his parents, he learned his tireless work ethic and the importance of setting goals. He learned reverence for the written word from three favorite high school and university professors. From an army major, he learned the importance of leading by example. In spite of his memory of the Till murder and the Jim Crow South, Bob set lofty goals. He was determined to serve his country as a military officer.

In 1966, eleven years after the Till murder, Bob was a Distinguished Military Graduate at South Carolina State University. Bob was a paratrooper and led soldiers of the army's A Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry against enemy forces during the Vietnam War. (The historic first African American graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, LT Henry O. Flipper, served in A Troop, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry – the original Buffalo Soldiers.) While a member of the XVIII Airborne Corps commanding general's staff, Bob developed his solution to a presidential order into the military's first automated airlift reporting system. He served his country with distinction as an army officer for four years, departing at the rank of captain in 1970. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Soon after he began his thirty-three year career at IBM in 1970, Bob set the first of two new goals. Before the term "digital divide" was in common use, Bob forged a consortium in Virginia to provide the resources needed to achieve his first goal: a free service to support teaching and placing new computer programmers from the ranks of the unemployed and under-employed. His consortium included a bank, a university, a church, a city government, a non-profit, and IBM. He developed the curriculum and taught the programming classes that launched new careers for people in the mid-1970s who were on the wrong side of the "digital divide."

In 1991, a Don Stivers painting of a Buffalo Soldier gave rise to the second goal: tell the untold story of the African American troopers called Buffalo Soldiers. Thus began his research and writing career. His research included a month of camping during which he explored antebellum plantations, ruins of frontier forts of the early western United States, Civil and Indian War battle sites, and witnessed the unveiling ceremony of the National Buffalo Soldier Monument at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He was also a charter member of the Baltimore, Maryland chapter of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (Horse) Cavalry Association.

Bob settled in Charlotte, North Carolina shortly before he retired from IBM. Within two years, he created a new free service to again attack the digital divide. Beginning in 2001, the mission was to teach senior citizens how to use computers and the Internet. What began as one eight week class soon became three, each taught three times a year.

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During a 2005 visit with a telecommunications CEO in Nairobi, Kenya, Bob accepted advice that led to the establishment of Global Medical Data, Inc. in Charlotte. His company provides electronic health records services for physician practices and clinics in North Carolina and Texas. Though a new entrepreneur, he continued making progress toward his two goals. Classes for senior citizens thrived and in 2009 he published his highly acclaimed novel, ***Will and Dena: Love and Life in World War II***.

“Entertaining to educate” became the motto for his writing and work on his second goal – telling the story of the Buffalo Soldiers. His memory of incidents, typified by the Till murder in 1955 and his own adversarial encounters with armed Americans, guides his calm messages about “the road over which we’ve traveled. “ In his particularly anticipated 2011 novel, ***First Dark: A Buffalo Soldier’s Story***, Bob weaves the tale of an escaped slave from Charleston, South Carolina who serves the Union Army as a teen laborer during the Civil War before taking up arms as a Buffalo Soldier during Reconstruction and the Indian Wars. Like ***Will and Dena*** before it, ***First Dark*** uses the lives of ordinary people and their encounters with the actions and policies of historic real heroes and villains to bring alive their struggles. Bob employs anecdotes and stories from historic figures in science, military, politics, entertainment, entrepreneurship, and other disciplines to teach “the road over which we’ve traveled” within his vastly entertaining historical novels.

Writing and teaching have been Bob’s primary means of achieving the goals he set. As an intern in 1960s, he taught physics and chemistry in a public high school, followed in 1966 by teaching military subjects to soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas. During his years at IBM, he taught employees and non-employees in his staff roles and as a manager. Today, he presents and lectures at universities and to interested groups based on his historical novels and related research.

Bob and his wife have a daughter, four sons, three daughters-in-law, a son-in-law, and six grandchildren. He and his wife make their home in Charlotte, North Carolina.