



**LARRY IVEY ADAMS** – Died Friday night, August 27, 2021, at his residence in Waynesville, Georgia at the age of 75, while under the care of hospice. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on March 20, 1946, in Jacksonville, Florida to the late A. W. Adams and Juanita (née McCracken) Adams. Larry graduated from Bacon County High School in Alma, and he served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Blackshear Chapter #1070*. He retired from CSX Railroad as a machinist, and he attended Jamestown United Methodist Church. Larry enjoyed boating while saltwater fishing. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Dwight “Butch” Adams; and his mother-in-law, Pauline Thrift. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Rosa Pauline (née Mistretta) Adams of Waynesville; one daughter, Paula Lori “Missy” Adams of Waynesville; two grandchildren, Molly Oliver (Brock) of Hortense, and Morgan Meyer (Danielle) of Raybon; one great grandchild, Reese Oliver; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Carol Youmans (late John), Fred Mistretta (Jean) and Mary Kitchens; special friend, Randall Hickox; and several nieces and nephews. A graveside service was held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at the Oakland Cemetery. The family received friends on Tuesday beginning at 1:30 PM at the cemetery. Sympathy may be expressed by signing the online guestbook, or by viewing the video tribute and funeral service recording at [www.musicfuneralhome.com](http://www.musicfuneralhome.com). The Music Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



**ANDRES “Nato” AGAN, JR.** (USAF, SMSG-Ret.) - Died Monday, August 30, 2021 at his home in Sun City, Arizona at the age of 83. The cause of death was Agent Orange-related myocardial infarction. He was born in Ola’a, Hawaii on July 1, 1938. He was a retired United States Air Force Senior Master Sargent, retired Information Specialist with the State Department, and member of Sons of Norway, Filipino Veterans and Air Force Vets, a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America - Arizona*, and Magicians Club in Las Vegas. He is survived by his daughter, Andrea Hieger; brother, Nathan Agan; sisters, Marlene Manzano, Charlotte Agan-Paiva, Brenda Okano, Laura Medeiros, Isabel “Pudgie” Smith, Liberty “Lee” Rivera, and Paula “PJ” Hall; two grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hawaii on Tuesday September 21, 2021 at 9:00 AM. The burial service with full military honors was in the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery at 12:00 Noon. Social distancing and mask wearing was required. The arrangements were made by the Ballard Family Mortuary in Kona, Hawaii.



**BENJAMIN JIMMY ALEXANDER** - Died Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at the Tift Regional Medical Center in Tifton, Georgia at the age of 74. He was a resident of Fitzgerald, Georgia. The cause of death was blood clots to the heart. Mr. Alexander was born on February 2, 1947 in Fitzgerald to the late William Arthur and Lillian Whitley Alexander. He was a 1965 graduate of Fitzgerald High School and attended Ben Hill-Irwin Tech for bookkeeping. He worked on the assembly line at Delco-Remy and retired from General Motors while working at the Corvette plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Jimmy loved NASCAR and worked on several teams including Jimmy Means Racing. He loved his grandchildren and was an avid Purple Hurricane fan and booster. He loved life to the fullest and will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends. He was a member of Riverdale Baptist Church in Riverdale. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Fitzgerald Chapter 1082**. He is survived by his son, Andy and Jodi Alexander of Fitzgerald; a daughter, Jennifer and Chris Irish of Lynchburg, Virginia; grandchildren: PFC Whitley Alexander, USMC, Quantico, Virginia and Ava Irish of Lynchburg, Virginia; a sister, Connie Smith of Fitzgerald; and a brother, Bobby Alexander of Dublin. Several nieces and nephews also survive. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Chandler Andrew Alexander; two sisters: Peggy Player and Terri Alexander; and two brothers: Billy Alexander and Warren Alexander. Memorial services were held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, August 29, 2021 at the Arbor Baptist Church in Fitzgerald, Georgia, with the Reverend Dr. Lloyd Stembidge officiating. Eulogies were given by Jack Paulk, Lee Liles, and Mark Alexander. The family suggested those desiring to send memorials may send them to any organization or booster club that benefits the Purple Hurricanes. Due to COVID-19, all guests and attendees were requested to wear appropriate medical grade facemasks and to maintain social distancing at all times.



**LAWRENCE C. "Larry" ARMSTRONG** – Died Thursday, August 19, 2021 peacefully at home in Havertown, Pennsylvania at the age of 75, surrounded by his wife and daughters. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Havertown on January 30, 1946. He was a lifelong resident of Havertown, PA. Larry was a Sergeant in the United States Army and served in combat in the Vietnam War. He served his country proudly. Larry returned home and began working for Northwest Orient Airlines. While working there, he met the love of his life, Veronica (Ronnie). They soon married and decided to raise their family in his hometown. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post #667. He was also a supporter and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Media Chapter #67**. Larry enjoyed watching both NFL and MLB games. He enjoyed boating and spending time with his family on the Chesapeake Bay. But above all, he enjoyed doting over his granddaughter Elizabeth who was "the apple of his eye". Larry is survived by his wife of 49 years, Veronica (née Wisowaty), daughter Jennifer Pitcher and her husband

Chad of Allentown PA, daughter Suzanne Wojtkiewicz, her husband Mark, and their daughter Elizabeth, all of Dover, DE. He is also survived by his brother Joseph Armstrong and his wife Linda in addition to many nieces and nephews. He was deeply loved and respected by all who knew him. The interment was held at 11:00 AM on September 7, 2021, at Washington Crossing National Cemetery, located at 830 Highland Road, Newtown, PA 18940.



**JERRY DEAN BAKER** – Died Thursday, April 27, 2017 in Westland, Michigan at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 27, 1947. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Westland Chapter #387**. He was the loving husband of Audrey for 48 wonderful years; devoted father of Stacey (Brad) Gorman and Keith (Krystle); fun loving grandpa of Wyland, Sawyer, Merin and Jaden; cherished brother of Fred (Roxanne) and Terry, and; will be deeply missed by many nieces, nephews, and many friends. Visitation as held on Tuesday from 1:00-7:00 PM with a 4:30 PM Eulogy Service at the John N. Santeiu and Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Road, Garden City (Between Ford Road and Cherry Hill). The burial took place privately at the Great Lakes National Cemetery.



**KENNETH W. "Ken" BATTEN** - Died Friday, September 17, 2021, at Hope Creek Care Center in East Moline, Illinois at the age of 72. He was a resident of Rock Island, Illinois. The cause of death is unknown. Ken was born on October 29, 1948, in Moline to the late Robert and Margaret (née Anderson) Batten. He married Patricia Beyhl and later married Roxanne Stevenson. He served in the United States Air Force and was stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, TX, where he worked on F-4 Phantoms and Air Force One when it was there. He later worked as an engineer for J. I. Case Company, Sears Manufacturing, and the Rock Island Arsenal. Ken was a member of various veteran service organizations such as the American Legion, VFW, and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Moline Chapter #669**. He loved working on cars and if it was broken, he could fix it. His greatest joy in life was being able to attend his grandchildren's school and sporting events. Survivors include his sons, Jeff Batten and James Batten; stepsons, Reggie (Caitlin) Larson and Rusty (Maribeth) Larson; 15 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild; and brothers, Larry Batten and Paul Batten. He was preceded in death by his parents, stepson, Rudy Larson, and brother, Thomas Batten. Funeral services were held at 1:00 PM on Friday, September 24, 2021, at the Esterdahl Mortuary and Crematory in Moline. Visitation was from 3:00–6:00 PM on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at the funeral home. The burial and military honors was at the Rock Island National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to VVA Chapter #669.



**J. OWEN BERRY** - Died Wednesday, March 17, 2021, in Pequannock, New Jersey at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Passaic, New Jersey on October 13, 1941. He lived in Lincoln Park before moving to Pequannock 7 years ago. A United States Army Veteran during the Vietnam War, Owen was an IT Technician for BASF Corporation, Rockaway for 27 years. After retiring, Owen worked for the Berkshire Valley Golf Course in Jefferson Township. and was a member of the Lincoln Park Archery Club. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Cedar Grove Chapter #510**. Beloved husband of Annette (Grosso). Devoted father of Melanie Vasa and her husband Dave of Boonton, and Mandy Coster and her husband Dave of Denville. Loving grandfather of Lucy, Jeremy and Ruby. The Funeral Mass was held on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM at Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church, 318 Newark-Pompton Turnpike, Pequannock. The entombment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Totowa. The arrangements were under the direction of the Shook Funeral Home, 639 Van Houten Avenue, Clifton.



**GEORGE SANDERS BLAIR** (USAF, TSGT-Ret.) – Died Saturday, September 18, 2021 in the Floyd E. (Tut) Fan Veteran Nursing Home in Huntsville, Alabama at the age of 89, a few weeks shy of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The cause of death is unknown. George was born on November 1, 1931, to Theodore (Jack) Blair and Dorothy Louise Scott and lived his formative years in Huntsville before enlisting in the United States Air Force. He dutifully served his country for 21 years until he retired back to civilian life. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Huntsville Chapter #1067**. His post-military career led him to become a Captain of Security at Bellefonte Nuclear Plant in Hollywood, Alabama. In 1959, he married Alice Amithyne Thomas and from this union, they had two sons, James and Charles Blair. Amithyne, as she was affectionately known, passed away ten years into their marriage. Several years later, he married Ethel (née Palmer) Robinson, and his family grew with the addition of her sons, Talmadge and Johann Robinson. George loved to sing. When he was in a particularly good mood, he'd serenade anyone within earshot with his rich, baritone voice and his ability to beautifully yodel. His favorite gospel singer was Lee Williams. In his younger years, he nurtured his talent for singing by joining a few gospel quartets. Another one of his passions was going to flea markets in search of treasures. He had the heart of a collector and his found-treasures brought him much joy. However, if you knew George, you would have known that his biggest passion, above all else, and the activity that he devoted the most time to, was weightlifting. He renovated his garage into a home gym and spent many hours doing what he loved – lifting weights. He was known in the neighborhood for his well-equipped gym and often shared the space with some of the young people who were eager for the opportunity to work out with him. Preceding him in death are his parents and his niece, Nancy Blair West. Left to mourn his passing are his sisters: Ann Crutcher and Christine Freeman of Huntsville, AL and Athens, AL, respectively; his sons James Blair (Judy), Franklin, TN, Charles Blair,

Huntsville, AL, William Talmadge Robinson, IV, (Tiara), Apopka, FL, Johann C. Robinson, Sr., Tuscumbia, AL and his devoted nephew, Theodore Blair who spent an inordinate amount of time making sure that George had whatever he needed when he needed it and was always responsive whenever George called on him. George loved his grandchildren. He had a huge soft spot in his heart reserved just for them and would do anything for them: Christina Crawford (Bryan), Matthew Blair, Maya Robinson, Whitney Robinson, Johann Christopher Robinson II, Jalil Palmer (J.P.) Robinson, Tyree Robinson, and great-granddaughter Aria Crawford along with other great-nieces and great-nephews. The family thanks Gloria Garth, Priscilla Horton of Diversicare of Big Springs, Teresa Patton of Servant Home Care LLC, Pina Warren, and the staff at Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veteran's State Home who provided excellent care, his neighbors the Camps and the Sanders who were there for George in his time of need, Nelms Memorial Funeral Home, and Valhalla Funeral Home and Memory Gardens. At the end of his life's journey, George made peace, found peace, and now, may he forever rest in peace. Public Viewing for TSgt George Sanders Blair USAF Retired was held on Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 2:30 until 3:30 PM at the Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. The interment was in Valhalla Memory Gardens.



**RICHARD RAY "Dick" BLAKE** – Died Friday, September 24, 2021 in Grandview, Missouri at the age of 78. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri on October 1, 1942 to the late Beauford Ray Blake and Mary Louise Blake. Richard is survived by his brother Jack (Patricia) Blake of Raytown, his daughter Sherri (Gary) Davis of Raymore, his granddaughter Amber (Matt) Bramble and two granddaughters. Born Oct 1, 1942, he was lifelong resident of Kansas City. Richard was a member of the United States Army National Guard until he was injured in a construction accident in 1968. Richard survived 53 years as a paraplegic. He was instrumental in the growth of many wheelchair activities in the area, especially the KC Wheelchair Bowlers. Richard served as a board member and volunteer for many organizations including Southland Optimists, Easter Seals, a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Kansas City Chapter #317** and the PVA. Richard was a long term worker for the Southside Optimist Bingo as well as the Vietnam Veterans Bingo. He helped many other disabled persons by installing hand controls and wheelchair lifts in their vehicles. Richard loved cars and was active in the Corvette Club of KC as well as with custom vans, trucks, and dune buggy clubs. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, his life partner Margaret Hammermill and her son Michael Baker. The services were private and the family requested donations be made to Disabled Veterans Organization.



**THOMAS RAY "Tom" BLANKENSHIP, SR.** -Died Saturday, May 1, 2021 at the CAMC Memorial Hospital after a short illness at the age of 69. He was a resident of Charleston, West

Virginia. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on December 2, 1951 in Boone County, West Virginia to the late Herbert and Velma Blankenship. Tom was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, 1969-1974, where he worked in communications as a radio operator. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Charleston Chapter #37*. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Thomas Ray Blankenship, Jr.; and granddaughter, Lora Beth Frontz. Tom is survived by his wife of 49 years, Meritta Blankenship; daughter, Lisa Frontz; granddaughters, Krissa and Mickee Frontz; three great-grandchildren; brothers, Gary and David Blakenship; and sisters, Barbara Carte and Darla Lilly. A graveside service was held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veteran Cemetery. Friends and family visited from 12:30 to 1:30 PM at the Keller Funeral Home, Dunbar when the procession left for the service at 1:45 PM. The arrangements were in the care of the Keller Funeral Home in Dunbar.



**DONALD E. BONGE** - Died Saturday, January 11, 2020 in Farmingdale, New York at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 1, 1944. Donald graduated from Plainedge High School and went on to serve in the United States Army and was in the Vietnam War. He was a very proud American and Veteran. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Hicksville Chapter #82*. He was a skilled wood worker, carpenter and helped build houses with his father. He then spent his career working for IBM. He was a loving husband, proud father, uncle, and grandfather, and friend. He was always there when you needed him. Incredibly generous with his time. He wanted to take care of everything for everyone he loved. He could fix anything and everything, cars, houses, electronics. He was smart and skilled with his hands. He had a great sense of humor and always made the people around him laugh. He had two of everything and every size battery you could ever need. He was a Disney lover, a dog lover, and would light up at the sight of his grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his wife Judy, his children Jennifer (Robert), Brandon (Kristin), Eric (Heather), Mike (Dawn) and Tim (Jennifer) his grandchildren; Sean, Averie, Mickey, Georgia, John, Ariana, and Shelby, Brother, Steven, predeceased by his twin sister Patricia Marfoglio. Visitation was on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 PM and from 7:00-9:00 PM at the Arthur F. White Funeral Home, 315 Conklin Street, Farmingdale. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM at Maria Regina Roman Catholic Church, Seaford. Private Cremation. There was a gathering at funeral home Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM. Inurnment with military honors was at the Long Island National Cemetery.



**WALTER JEROME "Jerry" BROCK** - Died Saturday, September 4, 2021 in Taylors, South Carolina at the age of 75. The cause of death was the coronavirus COVID-19. Jerry as many knew him was born in Columbia, South Carolina on July 29, 1946 to the late Walter Carlos and Helen



(née Gullledge) Brock. He grew up in the Columbia area and graduated from Lower Richland High School, Class of 1965. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1966. He served with the 380<sup>th</sup> Security Police Squadron at Plattsburgh AFB, NY. During that time, the Air Force established a specially trained light infantry/Ranger unit, the 820<sup>th</sup> Combat Security Police Squadron (Operation SAFESIDE). He served with the 822nd from August 1968 to March 1969 and was especially proud of being sniper trained. Two nights after his return from Vietnam, the Lord lead him to talk with a nursing student with a “beautiful smile and a joyful laugh”. They stayed in touch and two months later became engaged. After his discharge in January, he returned to Plattsburgh. They married June 27, 1970. They moved back to Columbia where he worked with AAFES Warehouse Maintenance and later Westinghouse NFD. Cooking for family and friends had become more than his hobby when the Lord lead the family to Asheville Buncombe Technical College. He earned an Associate’s degree in Culinary and Hotel Restaurant Management. As a student, he worked at Grove Park Inn and managed the food service operation for Crest Ridge Girls Camp. After graduation, he worked at Country Club of Asheville. December 1981, the Lord lead him to apply for work with the soon to open Hyatt Regency Greenville where he worked for a total of 27 years until his retirement in 2014. The Lord took him to Furman University dining services for almost 5 years where he used his mass production skills. Since his retirement, he has enjoyed going to yard sales, flea markets and thrift stores. He also enjoyed getting out and sharing with other veterans (especially other Vietnam vets) about the results of Agent Orange exposure. Of course, he continued to use his God given gifts in many capacities throughout his life including food prep, scout leader, professional organizations, church activities. His real passion since retirement, were veterans and those who serve us. He was an active *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Greenville Chapter #523**, serving at chapter and state levels. His parents, Walter Carlos and Helen G Brock, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife of 51 years Doris, his children Dorothy S Waldrop of Greenville, Walter Jon Brock (Cecillia) of Travelers Rest, and his brother, Robert M. Brock (Catherine) of Melbourne Beach, FL. Family, friends and the community will miss him. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #523: send to P.O. Box 3862, Greenville, SC 29608 or to a charity of your choice. Again, we feel the Lord’s love, care, and guidance for us as He has released Jerry from the stress of declining health and abilities.



**JAMES BROSSMANN** – Died Wednesday, September 8, 2021 in Schulenburg, Texas at the age of 81. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on January 30, 1940. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Schulenburg Chapter #840**. Survivors include: his daughters, Sheila Brossmann of Schulenburg and Roxann Redding/husband Darren of Hostyn; his son, Scotty Brossmann/wife Cheryl of St. John; his sister, Mary Lou Dujka of East Bernard; his sister-in-law, Janie Kristynik of Garwood; and five grandchildren. Funeral services were held from the Saint Rose Catholic Church in Schulenburg, Texas on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Visitation was held at the Church from 9:30 to 11:00 AM on Saturday. The Fireman's Memorial service was at 11:00 AM

with the Schulenburg American Legion services to follow. The Parish and Knights of Columbus rosary was recited at 11:30 AM. Entombment was in the Saint Rose Catholic Mausoleum in Schulenburg, Texas. Full military honors were conducted at the cemetery by the Schulenburg American Legion. The family requested donations be made to: The Saint Rose Catholic Church or School; or the Schulenburg American Legion; or the Schulenburg Food Pantry; or a charity of one's choice.



**ERNEST GENE CALLOWAY** - Died Friday, July 13, 2018 in Morganton, North Carolina at the age of 68. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina on June 6, 1950 to the late Ray Frank Callaway and Frances (née Payne) Callaway. Gene was a devoted husband who loved his family. He was a one hundred percent disabled United States Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam War. He was passionate about and very involved as a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – North Carolina* and Disabled American Veterans. Gene was an avid outdoorsman, blacksmith, and knifemaker. He was involved in his family's genealogy and enjoyed solving problems. Most of all, Gene was a kind soul who loved to help his fellow man. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church. Gene is survived by his wife, Kathleen (née Allan) Calloway; sister, Pat Crutchfield; uncles, Jack Calloway (Gail) of Lincolnton and Jack Hensley of Asheville; nephew, Scott Callaway (Glynis); and nieces, Kathryn Wang (Weilei), Tammy Lopez (Raymond), and Trisha Crutchfield. In addition to his parents, Gene was preceded in death by a brother, Fred Callaway. The burial was at 10:30 AM in the columbarium at First Presbyterian Church. A Celebration of Life was held at 11:00 AM in the church with the Reverend Dr. Wanda Neely and Reverend Beth Ann Miller co-officiating. The family had a gathering of friends following the service in the fellowship hall. Military honors were provided by the U.S Air Force. Memorial contributions may be made to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #43, PO Box 572, Morganton, NC 28680 or to Mimosa Christian Counseling Center, 220 Burkemont Avenue, Morganton, NC 28655. The Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center assisted the family with the arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.sossomanfh.com](http://www.sossomanfh.com).

**THOMAS L. CARMODY** – Died Tuesday, August 3, 2021 in Kingman, Arizona at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on March 31, 1947. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Kingman Chapter #975*.



**RONALD J. "Ron" "Roadkill" CARRON** - Died Saturday, September 4, 2021 at home in Springfield, Illinois at the age of 72. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on March 22, 1949 in Saint Louis, Missouri to the late Archie Carron and Shelva Jean (née Cauley) Carron. He married Luann "Herman" Hoefle on June 7, 1980, and she survives. He is survived by four children: Brian (Kristy) Carron, and Rebecca (Dan) Gilmore of Havana, Shelly (Ernie) Allen of Springfield and David (Sarah) Carron of Girard, nine grandchildren: Preston and Azariah Carron,



Haley, Erin and Gavin Gilmore, Sydney and Krista Allen, Dean and Everett Carron, six sisters: Connie Thompson and Carol (Steve) Skaer of Millstadt, Sandy (Tim) Clossen of Baldwin, Shirley (Joe) Avellone, Jerri (Ron) Richardson and Wanda Sins, all of Belleville, one brother, Archie (Jeanette) Carron of Belleville, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was a resident of Springfield. He worked at Fiat Allis for ten years, State of Illinois Revenue, Secretary of State and retired from Illinois Department of Transportation after 20 years of service. Ron served proudly in the United States Marine Corps, Navy Reserves and the Illinois Army National Guard. He was a *Life Member* of VFW Post #10302, **Vietnam Veterans of America – Springfield Chapter #534**, ABATE, NBL (National Bicycle League), Friday Nighters Softball League, Marine Vet Motorcycle Club, Instructor at YMCA. He also worked at Quarter B Farms and the Tim Kinner Farms of Pleasant Plains. Visitation hours were from 4:00 7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at the Staab Funeral Home in Springfield. The Funeral Service was at 12:30 PM on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at the Staab Funeral Home – Springfield with Phil “Pacman” Cornell officiating. The burial was at Camp Butler National Cemetery where military honors were conducted. Memorial donations may be made to VFW Post #10302 Relief Fund, 2349 Stockyard Road, Springfield, IL 62702 or Civil Air Patrol (make checks payable to: Springfield Composite Squadron, mail to ATTN: Tammi Cox, 412 Dogwood Court, Spaulding, IL 62561. Motorcycles were welcome for the funeral and casual attire and fundraiser shirts were encouraged.



**JIMMY JOHN “Jim” CHAPMAN** - Died Wednesday, October 6, 2021 in Schulenburg, Texas at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. Jim was born in San Marcos, Texas on November 8, 1945 to the late Wilson Paul Chapman and Margaret Joan (née Schaas) Chapman. He married Annie L. Weber on August 13, 1988 in La Grange, Texas. He graduated from New Braunfels High School and attended Southwest Texas State University. Jim served his country in the United States Army from 1969-1971 during the Vietnam War with a National Defense Service Medal: Sharpshooter (Rifle M-14); Expert (Rifle M-16). He worked for GMAC as a Branch Manager. He then worked as an Operations Manager for Ford Credit for thirteen years and retired on March 31, 2005. He served on the church council at Swiss Alp United Evangelical Lutheran Church, a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Schulenburg Chapter #870** serving as Treasurer, and served as treasurer for Engle Farm Mutual Insurance. He also was a proud 15-year member of the Schulenburg American Legion Post #143 (receiving the Legionnaire of the Year in 2018), participated in parades, military funerals, and all aspects of the local Post activities. He led the unit for many years as the Head of the Executive Committee, the lead man in the annual fundraiser, and had provided invaluable knowledge to the unit in making a fundraiser a success. Jim’s favorite enjoyment was watching his granddaughters play sports. He enjoyed fishing and watching Dallas Cowboys’ football. He is survived by his wife, Annie Chapman, of 33 years; two daughters: Dawn Jardine and husband, Brian, of Portland, OR; Melissa Sommer and husband, James, of Schulenburg, TX; one brother, Preston Chapman of New Braunfels, TX; three sisters: Virleen Moon; Penny Zimmerman, and Agnes Chapman, all of New Braunfels, TX; four granddaughters: Madeline Sommer of College Station, TX and Jordan Sommer of Schulenburg, TX; Kate Schlegel of New York City, NY and Emily Schlegel of Chicago, IL. He was

preceded in death by his parents, Wilson and Margaret Chapman; three brothers: Johnnie, Wilson and Herman Chapman; two sisters: Doris Chapman and Helen Mims; father-in-law, Alfred P. Weber. Visitation was held on Saturday, October 9, 2021 from 2:00 to 7:00 PM at the Koenig-Belvill Funeral Home & Cremations. The family received friends from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Funeral Services were held at the Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 800 North Franklin Street, La Grange, Texas at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 10, 2021. The burial was in the Schulenburg City Cemetery. Full military honors were conducted at the cemetery by the Schulenburg American Legion. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mount Calvary Lutheran Church or Schulenburg American Legion Post #143. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Koenig - Belvill Funeral Home and Cremations, 208 West Pearl, La Grange, Texas. Family and friends can view and sign the guestbook online at [www.lagrangefunerals.com](http://www.lagrangefunerals.com).



**MERLE ALLEN CHRISTIANS** - Died Saturday, August 21, 2021 at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics at the age of 77. He was a resident of Davenport, Iowa. The cause of death was a heart attack. Merle was born in Eldora, Iowa on November 27, 1943 to the late Chris and Jennie (née Geiken) Christians. He graduated from Wellsburg High School and later received his Bachelor Degree in Accounting from Iowa State University in 1965. He proudly served his country with an Artillery Battalion in the United States Army, earning the rank of First Lieutenant. Merle served from 1967-1968 during the Vietnam War and was the recipient of the Bronze Star. He married Sandra Kruse on December 18, 1971 in Davenport, Iowa. Merle was an Accounting Manager for Caterpillar Inc. at both Mt. Joy, Iowa and Peoria, Illinois for thirty-three years. He was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church, Davenport. He was also a member of the American Legion and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Bettendorf Chapter #776**. Merle enjoyed working outdoors and exercising. Above all, Merle loved his Lord, country and family, especially his grandchildren. Merle will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Sandy; two children, Jamie Buckendahl of San Jose, California and Kyle (Clarice) Christians of St. Louis, Missouri; seven grandchildren, Ella and Evan Buckendahl and Julian, Greta, George, Hollis and Allister Christians; and three siblings, Edward (Bonnie) Christians of Wellsburg, Iowa, Joan Mooney of Gifford, Iowa and Calvin (Sharee) Christians of Bettendorf, Iowa. Merle was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother-in-law, Floyd Mooney. In accordance with his wishes, cremation rites were accorded and no public services were held at this time. Memorials may be made to Children's Cancer Research, Make-A-Wish or Saint John's United Methodist Church in Davenport, Iowa. Online condolences may be left at [www.bentleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.bentleyfuneralhome.com).



**JAMES ARTHUR "Jim" COAN, SR.** (USA, MSG-Ret.) - Died Sunday, August 8, 2021 in Renton, Washington at the age of 73, fighting a severe infection in Puyallup, Washington. The

cause of death is unknown. Jim was born on March 23, 1948 in Martin, Tennessee to the late Jack and Mildred (née Williams) Coan, joining his brother, Jack, Jr. He was a proud United States Army veteran serving in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968, as well as a member of the Washington State Army National Guard retiring as a Master Sergeant. He was a licensed Professional Land Surveyor in Washington and Oregon with active membership in the LSAW (Land Surveyors Association of Washington) and NSPS (National Society of Professional Surveyors). Until his retirement, Jim was a Certified Federal Surveyor. Jim's first passion in the surveying industry began when he was hired in 1984 as an instructor of the Land Surveying course at RVTI, currently Renton Technical College. Seeing many of his students become Professional Land Surveyors was a great source of pride. In addition, he earned an Associate of Applied Science in Civil Engineering Technology – Land Surveying Degree from Renton Technical College in 1996. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Washington**. Jim is survived by his wife, Ronda, whom he married on August 11, 1984, in Spokane, WA; his children, James Coan, Jr. (Cat Thrasher), Charlottesville, VA; Sandra Coan (Peter Czark), Seattle, WA; Christopher Coan, Mt. Vernon, WA; stepchildren, Corey Blaisdell, Kent, WA; Aaron Blaisdell (Janet), Snohomish, WA. He is also survived by grandchildren Anais Coan; Dexter and Harvey Czark; Lulu and Veronica Coan; Olyver and Adison Blaisdell; his brother Jack Coan, Jr., Atlanta, GA, as well as extended family throughout the US and Canada. Predeceased by his sister, Lynn Simms (Derek), Beamsville, Ontario. Family was a great source of pride showing them kindness, respect, patience, and a depth of love seldom found. Jim had a true wanderlust and combined with his love of camping, canoeing, and motorcycling, his bucket list was checked off one-by-one. On his last motorcycle trip in June, he checked off two more ~ motorcycling across Death Valley and taking the train up to Pike's Peak.



**ERNIE W. COHEN** - Died Monday, July 12, 2021 at Haven Hospice of Orange Park, Florida at the age of 71. The cause of death is unknown. Ernie was born on February 25, 1950, in South Euclid, Ohio to the late Elaine and Manuel "*Mannie*" Cohen. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from The Ohio State University in 1972 and served as secretary and president of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. Upon graduation, Ernie joined the family business - American Steel Drum Co. - and became vice president. Ernie is survived by his wife, Joann; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sharon and Bradley Herbst of Jacksonville; and Jackie and Brian Bukstein of Chicago ; a sister and brother-in-law, Shelley and Mark Schulman of Cleveland; four grandchildren, Sydney and Andrew Herbst and Joshua and Zachary Bukstein; three sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Debbie and Lou Bauer of Jacksonville; Lisa and Tobin Shepardson of Northeast, Pa.; and Jim and Denise Murphy of North Lawrence, N.Y.; four nephews, Howie (Lindsay), Kenny (Brittany) and Jeffrey (Alison) Schulman and Brett Bauer; a niece, Becca Shepardson; two great-nieces and one great-nephew; and his step-mother-in-law, Marcia Murphy of Cassadaga, N.Y. He was predeceased by a sister, Hallie Cohen, in 2009. After the company closed, he began a highly successful career in sales management in various industries in the Cleveland area such as Kinzua Environmental and

Wirtshafters Inc. He married Joann Murphy on Oct. 7, 1994, in Painesville, Ohio. In 1996, Ernie opened his own firm - At Your Service - a multi-faceted personal-service business which operated successfully for several years before the Cohens decided to leave Ohio for Orange Park in February 2003. Once settled, he started another business, Software Unlimited, and eventually transitioned into a position as a regional sales representative in the credit-card-processing field where he was recognized as a top producer and deal closer. He then joined Haven Hospice as the Clay County professional liaison in January 2012 and immersed himself in the meetings, activities and events of Clay County to promote Haven Hospice and its mission which dramatically increased the agency's profile in the community. After two years, he accepted a similar position at Oak View Rehabilitation Center where he also became a member of the Board of Directors with Kids First of Florida - a non-profit dedicated to providing adoption and foster-care services to children emerging from abusive situations. By August 2015, as the board explored a new marketing approach to increase awareness and support for the Kids First program, Ernie stepped into a newly created role as not only as the community liaison for Kids First, but also the liaison for its sister non-profit agency - Clay Behavioral Health Center. He was a *Life Member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Orange Park Chapter #1059*. Ernie became a very active member and eventually vice president of the Clay County Senior Adult Advocacy Council where guests at the annual fundraising barbecue could anticipate seeing Ernie wearing a pig or turkey costume in summer or an elf or gingerbread boy outfit at Christmastime, and he was also known to turn up dressed as a jockey, ballerina or whatever outfit the occasion demanded. At the same time, Ernie was an extremely popular and in-demand master of ceremonies. His outrageous sense of humor, infectious enthusiasm and gift for provoking people with just the right balance of mischief and humor made him a natural to host community-networking groups and signature Clay County events. He was an avid Cleveland Browns fan who held season tickets for more than 20 years until the team "ripped his heart out" by moving to Baltimore. Some of his greatest joy came from watching his grandchildren participate in artistic performances and sports and from being part of a cause or team that helped and supported children. A celebration of life was held at a later date in Orange Park, Florida. Services were held Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Berkowitz-Kumin-Bookatz Memorial Chapel, 1985 South Taylor Road., Cleveland Heights. The interment was in Mount Olive Cemetery. To view this service please navigate to <https://youtu.be/8s9r0gS-bLE>. The family received friends at the residence of Lindsay and Howie Schulman, 29060 Naylor Road, Solon, Ohio on Friday following the services and interment until 8:00 PM. Memorial contributions may be made in Ernie's name to Kids First of Florida/Clay Behavioral Health Center, 1726 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073.



**GERALD EDWIN "Jerry" COX** - Died early Tuesday morning August 17, 2021 at The Hurlbut Home in Rochester, New York at the age of 74, following a long illness. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Dansville, New York on June 2, 1947 to the late James and Eleanor (née Fox) Cox. He was also predeceased by siblings Donna Nichols, Larry and David Cox. Jerry was a United States Navy Petty Officer serving from 1966 to 1977 during Vietnam. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20*. He was a former

employee of Johnson & Johnson in Rochester. He is survived by a daughter Jennifer (Paul) Binis, a son Corey Cox; a granddaughter McKenzie; two brothers Dan (Gail) and Tim (Jeannine) Cox; and several nieces and nephews. Friends came to visit on Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Hindle Funeral Home, Inc., 271 Main Street, Dansville. A graveside service followed by interment with Full Military honors was in the Holy Cross cemetery in Dansville. Online memorials may be at [HindleFuneralHome.com](http://HindleFuneralHome.com). In lieu of flowers please make memorials to Honor Flight of Rochester, Patriot Guard Riders of NY, Chapter #20 of Vietnam Veterans of America, Rochester NY.

**LAWRENCE E. CRANFORD** – Died Friday, September 24, 2021 in Clackamas, Oregon at the age of 73. The cause of death was the coronavirus COVID-19. He was born on November 26, 1947. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Portland Chapter #392**.

<p><b><u>RICHARD FRANKLIN CRIS</u></b> - Died Thursday May 6, 2021 in Richmond, Virginia at the age of 68. He was a resident of Brightwood, Virginia. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 19, 1952 in West Virginia to the late Early Hansford Crist and Margaret Pearl (née Newcomber) Crist. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Darrell and Billy Crist and a sister, Mary Barnes. He is survived by his wife, Edith Ann (née Anderson) Crist, two daughters, Patricia Marie Crist Marks and Karen Ladnier, one son, Richard Franklin Crist, II, four sisters, Ethel Davis, Doris Barnes, Elaine John and Louise Mabrey and eight grandchildren, Tad Spaulding, Hannah Marks, Hailey Crist, Kylie Crist, Richard Crist, III, Matthew Drumheller, Lilly Ladnier and Rachel Ladnier and one great-grandchild, Tia Marie Spaulding. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a <i>Life Member</i> of <b>Vietnam Veterans of America – Culpepper Chapter #752</b>. A funeral service was held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at the Preddy Funeral Home Chapel in Madison conducted by Pastor Jeff Light. The interment was in the Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in Reva, VA. The family received friends one hour before the service on Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:00 PM at the funeral home.</p>
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**WILLIAM RUDOLPH "Bill" CRITES** - Died Saturday, August 21, 2021 at Atrium Health in Cabarrus, North Carolina at the age of 74. He was a resident of Concord, North Carolina. The cause of death is unknown. Bill was born on August 8, 1947 in Ohio county, Kentucky to the late John and Laurretta (née Kemp) Crites. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Darlene Milligan Crites, a sister, Faye and a brother, Gerald. Bill proudly served in the United States Navy and was a member of the DAV Chapter #27. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Concord Chapter #909**. He retired from the Cabarrus County Schools' maintenance department. He enjoyed fishing, camping, and spending time with his grandkids. Bill loved the Lord and Christian music. He ran the sound system at Opportunity House, supported the Piedmont Singing Men and attended gospel singings at many churches. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Sarah Crites, Cathy



Crites, Michelle Gonzalez, and Glenna Greene and her husband, Mark; sons, Patrick Crites and Jason Turner and his wife, Missy; 10 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; sisters, Margie Dolph-Arthur, and Janice Norman; brother, Don Dolph and wife, Rhonda; numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members. A graveside service with military honors by the Cabarrus County Veterans Honor Guard was held on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the Carolina Memorial Park. Reverend Marvin Goodnight officiated. Memorials may be made to the Maranatha Worship Center, 99 White Street, SW, Concord, NC 28027 or to the Patriot Guard Riders, P.O. Box 36202, Fayetteville, NC 28303.



**RONALD ARTHUR "Ron" DAHL** - Died Thursday, February 18, 2021 in Aurora, Colorado at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. Ron was born June 22, 1941 in Liverpool, New York to the late Wellington "Bruce" Dahl and Hazel Dahl-Van Dusen. He graduated from Charles Baker High School, Baldwinsville, NY, in 1960. He entered the United States Air Force shortly after graduation and served 23 years. His tours included Vietnam, the Philippines, Iceland, and England. Stateside he was stationed at several bases including Dyess AFB in Abilene, TX and Lowry AFB in Denver, CO. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Aurora Chapter #1106**. Ron married Linda Weber on March 6, 1964 and they had three children. Ron retired from the Air Force in 1983. Following his retirement, he worked at the Denver Institute of Technology and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He married his current wife Diane Gant on September 10, 2005. In his youth Ron enjoyed photography. He loved to fix things around his house and passed on his knowledge to his kids. He took his family camping in the summers and coached sports teams. He enjoyed a good practical joke and loved to tease his favorite people. He was a collector of many things, a devoted fan of the Dallas Cowboys, liked to tinker in his workshop and loved his many dogs. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wellington "Bruce" and Hazel (Dahl) Van Dusen, a brother, Bruce Charles Van Dusen, an infant sister, and granddaughter, Elizabeth Rose, as well as other family members. He is survived by his wife, Diane; his former wife Linda, three children, Kimberly Dahl (Rory Regula), Keith (Barbara) Dahl and Karrie (Gary) Thompson; step son Daniel (Donna) Gould; several grandchildren, step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren; a sister, Karen (Olen) Reese; a brother, James (Theresa) Van Dusen; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A celebration of Ron's life was held on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 11:00 AM at the Newcomer Funeral Home East. A private military honors interment was held at the Fort Logan National Cemetery.



**FRANK DEAN, JR.** – Died Monday, August 2, 2021 in Portland, Oregon at the age of 73. The cause of death was Agent Orange-related Ischemic Heart Disease. He was born on August 7, 1947 in Aquadilla, Puerto Rico to the late Frank and Celida Dean, Sr. Frank then



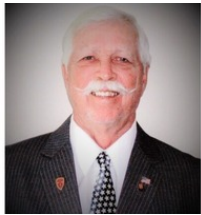
went on to live an adventure filled life; he met Mary Estelle Boland and they got married on January 13, 1968. They went on to have eight children over the years. During those years Frank, Jr. served in the United States Army in the Vietnam War. He served from October 1966 to October 1968. Soon after he served as a Green Beret in the Montana National Guard. He served his country bravely and raised his family as best he could. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Portland Chapter #392**. Some will remember Frank for unending conversations and brutal honesty and some will remember late night talks at Denny's and early mornings at Overlook. In the end, we all have our memories of Frank Dean, Jr. and these memories will stay in our hearts forever. He has now departed to live peacefully with his Father, Mother, Brother Larry and his eldest son Frank Joseph Dean. Frank is survived by his children John, Christopher, Michelle, Jennifer, William, David and Adrian. Frank is also survived by his siblings Alvin, Sally, Bruce, and Jaqueline. Mary and Frank went on to have 32 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. They will miss him greatly.



**PATRICK HENRY DELFORGE** - Died Monday, August 9, 2021 in Green Bay, Wisconsin at the age of 74. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Green Bay on March 21, 1947 to the late Henry and Emily (née Kusch) Delforge and brother to Mary Ann, Rita, Mike and Tom. After graduating from Preble High School, his parents gave him the opportunity to attend DeVry University in Chicago, resulting in relocation to Cedar Rapids, Iowa and employment at Collins Radio Corporation. He married Patricia Helen Rye on December 23, 1967, a constant source of love and support throughout his life. Shortly after, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving 3 years, including a 1-year stint in Vietnam. He was assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, flying helicopter courier duty during the Tet Offensive. Following his tour in Vietnam, he was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas where their son Kevin Patrick was born. After being honorably discharged and being awarded a Bronze Star, Patrick returned to Green Bay to resume his education, attending NWTC. He was a furniture salesman at Snider and Daanen until the store's closing, then manager of Wisconsin Furniture Mart, also doing furniture touch up and repair on the side. He worked at Cape Townsend in Algoma, building and installing cabinets. He later worked at Western Lime Corp. until 2009 retirement. Patrick was solid in his faith, and an active member of Saint Bernard Parish, ushering there for over 40 years. He was a "lifetime" member of Windjammers Sailing Club, most recently serving on the board and running the committee boat for races. He was a member of the Preble Optimist Club, the Hilltop Lunch Gang, a charter member and past-president of Bellevue East-Town Optimist Club. Patrick was also a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – DePere Chapter #224**, serving with the Color and Honor Guards, participating in monthly activities, parades, POW vigils and honorary Harley rides. In retirement, he and VVA buddy, Pete, were called to the Neenah High Schools every year to talk to students about the Vietnam War, something Patrick found very rewarding. As do many other Vietnam Veterans, Patrick endured PTSD and found refuge working with the VVA gardens and participating in Vet Center group meetings. Family members who have gone before include his parents, Henry and Emily Delforge: a brother, Michael Delforge; and a sister, Mary Ann

Zeutzius. Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Kimberly (Knauf) Delforge, and the mother of their son and wind beneath his wings, Patricia; a brother, Thomas (Jayne); a sister, Rita (Carl Freeland); a sister-in-law, Barb Schmit; other relatives and too many friends to mention. Visitation was held from 9:30 to 10:50 AM on Friday at Saint Bernard Catholic Church, 2040 Hillside Drive. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 AM on Friday at the church with Reverend Father Mark VanderSteege officiating. Full Military Honors concluded the services. The burial was in Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Cemetery. A Memorial Fund was established for Unity Hospice.

**ROBERTO DELGADO** – Died in August 2021 in Miami, Florida at the age of 80. The cause of death was complications from kidney disease. He was born in Camaguey, Cuba on April 5, 1941. He served in the United States Army from June 10, 1964 to June 9, 1966 with a tour of duty in Vietnam from January 12, 1965 to January 26, 1966. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Miami Chapter #620**.



**RICHARD CHARLES DeLONG** – Died Tuesday, August 31, 2021 in Lafayette, Louisiana at the age of 74, surrounded by his loving family. The cause of death was dementia. He was born on November 19, 1946, in Kansas City, Missouri to the late Cleo Wayne DeLong and Wanda Mae (née Hall) Trent-DeLong. A long-time resident of Lafayette, LA and an immensely proud veteran, Richard enlisted in the United States Army in 1965 and served four years with the U.S. Army Security Agency. After two consecutive tours in Vietnam, Richard was honorably discharged in 1969. An active *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) – Lafayette Chapter #141**, Richard was a member and former chair of the National POW/MIA Committee, which promotes the fullest possible accounting of those still listed as POW/MIAs. He returned to Vietnam twice with VVA to assist Vietnamese veterans in locating gravesites of their honored loved ones. Richard also served on VVA's Veterans Incarcerated Committee, Veterans Against Drugs Task Force, Membership Affairs Committee and the VVA's Public Affairs Subcommittee on Awards. Richard also served as sergeant-at-arms, treasurer and president of VVA Chapter #141 in Lafayette, LA. He was past president of the VVA LA State Council for three consecutive terms starting in 1998, and chaired the VVA Conference of State Council Presidents from 2002-2004. In 2003, Richard was appointed to the board of the Veterans Assistance Foundation, and was a former member of the Veteran's Advisory Committee for the VA Medical Center in Alexandria, LA. After his time in the service, Richard worked as a lineman for AT&T until his retirement in 2001. After retirement, he most enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and was an avid golfer. He leaves a legacy of service, honor and love and will be deeply missed. Richard is survived by his beloved wife of 27 years, Leslie Ann DeLong, of Lafayette, LA; his stepson, Brian Winder, of Lafayette; two siblings, his brother and sister-in-law, Rob and Patsy Trent, of Glendale, AZ and his sister, Janet Trent, of Harrisonville, MO as well as dear nieces, nephews, comrades and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Cleo Wayne DeLong; his mother, Wanda Mae Hall Trent; one brother, Fred Trent and a sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and Eddie

Spangler. The family wishes to thank the staff of Hospice of Acadiana of Lafayette for the compassionate care given to Richard and his family. A Time of Visitation and Remembrance was held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 from 4:00-8:00 PM at the Fountain Memorial Funeral Home in Lafayette, LA. Masks were required for gatherings in the funeral home. The inurnment was on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 1:00 PM in Southwest Louisiana Veteran Cemetery in Jennings, LA. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Richard's name to Hospice of Acadiana, Inc. by mail at 2600 Johnston Street, Suite #2600, Lafayette, LA 70503, by phone at 337-232-1234 or online at [www.hospiceacadiana.com](http://www.hospiceacadiana.com). Online obituary and guest book may be viewed at [www.fountainmemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.fountainmemorialfuneralhome.com). The Fountain Memorial Funeral Home and Cemetery, 10TR Pandora Street was in charge of the arrangements.



**STEVEN P. DeRUYTER** - Died unexpectedly on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at home in Green Bay, Wisconsin at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on April 2, 1948 in Green Bay to the late Donald DeRuyter, Sr. and Helen DeRuyter. He was a graduate of West De Pere High School and the University of Wisconsin Green Bay. Steve retired from SECURA Insurance, Appleton. Steve served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1969 and was stationed for fourteen months in Vietnam. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – DePere Chapter #224** and served terms as President, Vice President, Secretary, Board of Directors, and headed up the Celebrate De Pere detail each year. Steve was chosen to go on the "Old Glory Honor Flight" in 2013. This was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War. He is survived by his brothers and sisters: Bill (Cheri) Arizona, Sandra (Tom) De Pere, Don, Jr. De Pere, Larry (Maureen) De Pere, Lynn (Juin) Minnesota, niece Tina and nephews Matthew, Joseph, Adam, Jared and Travis. Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Donald Sr. and Helen, and his sister, Susan, and brother, Bernie. Friends visited the family at the Ryan Funeral Home, 305 North Tenth Street, De Pere, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on Monday, August 16, 2021. The DeRuyter family requested that visitors wear masks. Full Military Honors took place at 5:00 PM with VVA Chapter #224.



**PATRICK JOSEPH DEVINE III** - Died Thursday, December 10, 2020 at his residence in Charlotte, North Carolina at the age of 73, with his loving wife, Michele and four children by his side. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 27, 1947, predeceased by his mother Rose Mary McKeown and father Patrick Joseph Devine II, his sister Mary Joan, brother Michael and four other siblings. Patrick served honorably in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1970. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Concord Chapter #909**. He earned a BA degree from Syracuse University class of 1975. An active man to be around, Patrick loved to

ski, golf, woodworking, and had a passion for travel. He always called his family his greatest achievement in life of which he was most proud. Patrick is going to be missed greatly by his family and friends. Those left behind to cherish Patrick's memories and carry on his legacy are his loving wife of almost 52 years, Michele (née Denis) Devine, his four children: son Jason and his wife Sharon Devine, and daughters Jennifer Hassing and her husband Jason, Patricia Freeman and her husband Marcus, Janice von Trapp and her husband Ryan, and thirteen grandchildren: Patrick Ryan, Dillon Michael, and Connor Jay Hassing; Jayda Rose and Joseph Maximus Devine; Marcus Brian, Johanna Michele Tizita, Grayson Frank Joseph and Devin Patrick Freeman; Reilly Rose, Reagan Michele, Ryan Harper, and Jude Phillip von Trapp. Also surviving is his devoted sister Helen Jane Kennedy and his brother Robert Devine. A private viewing for family only was held at the McEwen Funeral Service-Pineville Chapel, 10500 Park Road, Charlotte, NC. The interment was at the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Black Mountain, NC. A Celebration of Life event was held at a later date. Patrick, a supporter of Saint Jude's Hospital, has always believed no child should ever suffer from cancer and request that donations be made to St Jude's in lieu of flowers. Online condolences may be shared at [www.mcewenpinevillechapel.com](http://www.mcewenpinevillechapel.com).



**JIMMIE CLEVELAND DONALDSON, SR.** – Died Friday, August 20, 2021 in Samson, Alabama at the age of 70. The cause of death was the coronavirus COVID-19 respiratory failure from pneumonia and other underlying causes of hypertensive heart disease, PTSD and mitral valve cardiopathy. He was born in Samson on May 16, 1951 to the late Jordan and Eunice Donaldson. He passed with the love of his life Lisa (Grandma) by his side. He was also preceded in death by Ray and Ann Peacock his wife's parents and Willie Jo Eason, her aunt. He is survived by his wife of over 36 years, Lisa (née Peacock) Donaldson, seven children including spouses: Julie Donaldson of Santa Rosa Beach, FL, Manda and Noma Martini of Keller, Texas, Jim and Ashley Donaldson of Santa Rosa Beach, FL, and Sara and Alex Dowling of Samson, AL. Jimmie and Lisa have 9 grandchildren they feel are their own children as well: Austin Donaldson and Caleb Donaldson of Samson, AL, Taylor and Eve Martini of Keller, TX, Jaxon Donaldson of Samson, AL, Miles and Porter Dowling of Samson, AL, and Maddox and Makenna Donaldson of Santa Rosa Beach, FL. He is also survived by one sister Rhonda and Roy Farris of Samson, AL, and one brother Byron and Anne Donaldson of Samson, AL. His nieces and nephews are Lisa Donaldson, ReGina Donaldson, Dr. Rory Farris and wife Liz, Reagan Farris, Rhett Farris, and wife Anna and all their children and spouses and grandchildren. He also leaves behind their little family dog Sophie. Jimmie has touched many lives and leaves behind many friends from his school days, his service in the United States Army in the Vietnam War, his days working with his dad at Samson Auto Parts, and as an Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Service Officer for almost 26 years. He loved his job helping Veterans most of all. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Dalesville Chapter #393**. He loved all people the same and unconditionally. He was a sweet and kind man and there are not enough words to list all the good things he accomplished in life. His pride and joy in life was his marriage and his family. He is loved and will

be missed tremendously. Funeral service was held on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the chapel of Warren Holloway Ward Funeral Home in Geneva, AL with the Reverend Larry Mock officiating. Visitation was held on Sunday beginning at 5:00 PM and continued until service time. In lieu of flowers, if you feel led, you may donate to Camp Victory, 363 Victory Circle, Samson, AL 36477 or Chancellor Assembly of God, P.O. Box 87, Chancellor, AL 36316.



**THOMAS JOHN “Tom” DONOVEN** - Died Sunday, July 18, 2021 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the age of 82. The cause of death is unknown. Thomas was born on February 4, 1939 to the late Charles Donovan and Lillian (née Archambault) Donovan. He is also predeceased by his wife, Lita (née Fote) Donovan; and a son, Chief Master Sergeant Michael P. Donovan. Tom served in the United States Army in Vietnam and Korea and beyond as an engineer and later had a career in facilities management. If you thanked him for his service, he would always say 23 years 2 months and 11 days. He was a *Life Member* and *Past Chapter Treasurer and Board Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Indianapolis Chapter #295**. Thomas is survived by his children, Sharon Donovan, Karen Mathews, Daniel Donovan, and Chester Zitkovich (Cathy). Tom also had 2 pet cats Tammy and Babygirl whom he loved very much and Grandchildren and Great grandchildren who will miss him. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.feeneyhornakshadeland.com](http://www.feeneyhornakshadeland.com) for the Donovan family.

**PATRICK BRENDAN “Pat” DOYLE** – Died Sunday, August 22, 2021 in East Atlantic Beach, New York at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on March 24, 1945, in Tipperary, Ireland to the late Christopher and Anastasia (née O’Connell) Doyle. Patrick was a loving husband to Maureen (Llewellyn) Doyle. The two met on a blind date, married and had two beautiful children, Christopher and Melanie. The family eventually settled in East Atlantic Beach, New York, where they built a sweet life together. Pat was most proud of his five grandchildren, Patrick, Ella, Kevin, Katelyn and Lilly. Spending time with them was one of the things he loved to do most. This was a man who lived his life honoring, God, Country and Family. He was devout in his faith. and loyal to his country, having served in the United States Army. He served the United States in Vietnam and received both a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for that service. Military was in his blood and after the Army, he served over 15 years in the Army National Guard. Pat was very active, volunteering with several veteran organizations including the VA in St Albans and the US Volunteers. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – New York**. Pat was a faithful employee of the United States Postal Service, where he had many roles, retiring as a Security Coordinator for NY Metro. Most importantly, he loved his family both here and in Ireland. Patrick was a man of many gifts. He was a talented musician, able to play any instrument he picked up. He was highly intellectual and had a passion for reading and military history. He enjoyed helping his wife complete the News Day Word Jumble and Crossword Puzzle each day. He was a man always ready to help anyone who needed it and would have a great story to tell while he was doing it. Patrick Brendan Doyle was a constant source of joy. His infectious light



will be missed by his wife Maureen; children Christopher (Taryn) Doyle and Melanie (Jimmy) Johnson; grandchildren, Patrick, Ella, Kevin, Katelyn and Lilly; sisters Marion Cowman and Teresa Butler(David); Sister in law Carol Llewellyn, nieces Emma, Leah, Sara and Jessica; nephews Robert, Matthew and Jeffrey, and a host of family and friends. A Celebration of Life was held at Macken Mortuary, 3930 Long Beach Road, Island Park on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, from 2:00–4:00 PM and from 6:00-8:00 PM. Mass was held at Saint Ignatius Martyr Church, 721 West Broadway, Long Beach, NY on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Mass service will also be available online by using the following link: <https://boxcast.tv/view/private-funeral-mass-08-26-21-e12iupfygwwybfcvkhyt>. The interment was at the Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Westbury, New York. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of the following organizations: · Via check directly to VFW Post #1384 located at 675 West Park Avenue, Long Beach, NY 11561 · Online at the Travis Manion Foundation at [www.travismanion.org](http://www.travismanion.org).



**ALBERT WILBURN "Pete" DRAPER** (USAF, SMSGT-Ret.) – Died Saturday, September 18, 2021 in Cumberland Furnace, Tennessee at the age of 87, with his wife and family at his side. The cause of death was renal and bladder failure and dementia. He was born in Manchester, Texas on October 31, 1933 to the late Floyd and Elizabeth Draper. He was preceded in death by his parents, niece, Tamara Draper and her children, Jordan and Tashana, and nephew, Christopher Draper. Pete is survived by his wife Ann whom he was married to for 64 years. He is also survived by his daughters Dianna (Lloyd) Perry, Melinda Draper, Cindy Draper, and Jennifer Lynn (Darrin) Christy. He leaves his God given children Tammy Morgan, Jimmy (Bethany) Morgan, Shaun (Alisha) Morgan, and Rebekah Morgan. He is survived by his brother Bennie (Sharon) Draper and grandchildren: Sarah Powell, Franklin Perry, Nicole Murphy, Caleb and Hannah Christy, Skyla and Sierra Morgan, Will and Baylie Secker, Karalee Morgan, Taylor Rich, Madison and Morgan Welcher. Great children: Crissa Fields, Gavin and Austin Powell, Will Murphy, Lincoln and Lynnon Rich, Holden Morgan, and Memphis Loggins. He also leaves great-great grandchildren Jeremiah Fields and Kinslee Powell. His legacy of loving God and loving people will be carried on by each family member because of the example he instilled in them. Pete loved God, his family, and his country. He served his country in the United States Air Force for 29 years with gladness and bravery. He fought in the Korean War and Vietnam War. Pete was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Expeditionary Service Medal, and was the recipient of the Bronze Star. During his Air Force career, he graduated from Texas A & M. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for 52 years and was honored for his 50-year service in 2019. He was a member of Faith Baptist Church in Vanleer and enjoyed Bible Study. He had a servant's heart and was involved in various charitable organizations throughout Dickson County. At the time of his death, he was still the active treasurer of the Cumberland Furnace Community Center, a position he held for many years. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Dixon Chapter #950**. The family invited friends and relatives to share memories with them at Pete's visitation on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Spann Funeral Home from 4:00-8:00 PM. A Masonic service was held at 7:00 PM. There was also a visitation on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM with



the funeral at 2:00 PM. Brother Jerry Jenkins officiated the service. Pete was laid to rest at the Cumberland Furnace Cemetery on Highway 48 with full Military Honors.



**DAVID PAUL "Gunny" DUDECK** - Died Saturday, August 28, 2021 in his home in South Bend, Indiana at the age of 71. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on February 20, 1950 in South Bend to the late Paul and Theresa (née Pesci) Dudeck. David is reunited with his wife of 31 years, Joyce Marie Dudeck, the love of his life. He is survived by three daughters, Anna (Jeff) Ricci-Hutchings, Gina (John) Hite and Theresa (Tom) Bell; three sons, Anthony Ricci, Charles Dudeck and Paul Dudeck; twelve grandchildren, Cassie, Cristina, Andrew, Tasia, Christa, Maria, Breanna, Alexandria, Brea, James, Brielle & Bryleigh; four great grandchildren, Airess, Anna, Adelina and Jack. Also surviving are two sisters, Mary (Edward) Dudeck, and Marcia (David) Salmon; three sisters-in-law, Barbara Klimek, Theresa (David) Mateski, and Lisa (James) Hite; one brother-in-law, Michael (Cindy) Longfellow; and numerous nieces and nephews. David was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Dennis and John Dudeck and their wives, Shirley and Penny Dudeck; and two nephews, James Allan Gill and Ryan Michael O'Brien. David worked as a mechanic at the Mike's Maple Lane Amoco Service Station and Zolman's Tire, both in South Bend for a total of 27 years. David served in the United States Marine Corps for 18 years; was a Vietnam War Veteran; and a member of the American Legion and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – South Bend Chapter #1027**. David enjoyed fishing, going to the races, and working on his motorcycle with his nephew, Carl Dudeck. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Friday, September 3, 2021 at the Palmer Funeral Home-River Park, 2528 Mishawaka Avenue, South Bend, IN. Pastor Arlin Cochran officiated. Friends visited with the family from 4:00-8:00 PM on Thursday and one hour prior to services on Friday in the funeral home. Contributions in memory of Gunny may be offered to Toys for Tots, Miller's Vets, DAV, or Hope Ministries. Online condolences may be shared with his family at [www.palmerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.palmerfuneralhomes.com).



**WILLIAM F. "Bill" DUFFY** - Died Sunday, September 5, 2021 at Bayfront Health-Port Charlotte, Florida at the age of 73. The cause of death was lung cancer. Bill was born on March 21, 1948 in New York City, New York to the late Thomas and Kathleen (née McGarrigle) Duffy. He was United States Army disabled veteran of the Vietnam War. Bill was a Catholic and a member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter #82 of Port Charlotte. He was also a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Port Charlotte Chapter #1037**. Survived by his loving family, two daughters, Jennifer (Michael) DeMaio of Port Charlotte, FL and Julie (Stephen) Kisha of Orlando, FL; two sisters, Elizabeth (Curt) Richardson and Patricia (Eugene) Tanaka; two brothers, Patrick (Dawn) Duffy and Bon (Alicia) Duffy; 5 grandchildren, Miranda, Amber, Owen, Liam and

Jude. He was also affectionately known as Uncle "Bill" to his many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held on Friday, September 10, 2021 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM followed by Funeral Services at 11:00 AM at the Roberson Funeral Home, 2151 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33948. Interment with full military honors was held later at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Memorial contributions in Bill's memory may be made to DAV Chapter #82, 1232 Market Circle Unit B2, Port Charlotte, FL 33953. Friends may visit online at [www.robersonfh.com](http://www.robersonfh.com) to extend condolences to the family. Arrangements by Roberson Funeral Home Port Charlotte Chapel.



**ROGER CHARLES ELLIOT, SR.** (USA, MSG-Ret.) - Died Thursday, September 23, 2021 at Omaha VA Medical Center at the age of 72, after a courageous battle with throat cancer from exposure to Agent Orange during his two tours in Vietnam. He was a resident of Silver City, Iowa. Roger was born on December 1, 1948 in Fremont, Nebraska to the late Melvin W. Moad and Viola May (née Robertson) Moad. His name at birth was James L. Moad. He had two younger sisters; Marilyn Albertson (born Mary Margaret Moad) and Joann (Gale) Hale (born Janie Louise Moad) (husband J.C.). After Melvin and Viola divorced, they each remarried. Melvin had nine more children; Robert, Randy, Mary, Lee (Dianna) of Parnell, MO; Dale, Wayne, Glenn, and Billy all of Albany, MO; Anna (Ivan) Miller of King City, MO. Viola had five more children; Diana Cuthbert, Debora Raben (Terry), Emma Purviance, Delbert Holcomb (deceased), and David Holcomb (Janet) all of Torrington, WY. Roger was adopted at a young age by Charles Henry Elliot and Margaret Linnea (née Lindblad) Elliot of Omaha, NE. Roger was married to Linda K. Achatz and they had three children together; Melissa K. Elliot-Martinez, Roger Charles Elliot, Jr., and Michael J. Elliot. Roger married Judy Ann Gustafson on December 02, 1978 in Council Bluffs, IA. There was one son from their union, Robert L. Elliot. He was preceded in death by his birth parents; adoptive parents; son-in-law Roberto Martinez, and several siblings. Roger is survived by his wife Judy of nearly 43 years; daughter Melissa, sons Roger (Kathleen), Michael, and Robert; eight grandkids, Jason L. McConnell (Amanda), Michael D. Ingram (Alyse), Neal R. Martinez, Alex X. Elliot (Cassie), Karlee C. Elliot, and Dustin J. Elliot; three great grandkids, Constance C. McConnell, Naiah F. Matthies, and Lex A. Ingram; his faithful JAVELAN service dog Marley; many nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and friends. Roger graduated from Omaha Central High school in 1967. Roger's career included sales, operations manager, and lastly driving for Sarr Trucking before his retirement. Roger was drafted for Vietnam and was proud of his military career of 29 years between the United States Army, Army Reserves, and National Guard. He received many awards and was a bronze star recipient, Eagle Scout, and Vigil Honor recipient in the Order of the Arrow. Roger enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Hobbies included reading; gardening (which he thought he was a master gardener, and he WAS very good at it.); target practicing; going to and being involved at the Korkow Pheasant Hunting Ranch in South Dakota; and an annual family reunion. He was active in several organizations including; Shriners, Shriners Legion of Honor, Covert Lodge, Scottish Rite, American Legion, National Sojourners, Heroes of '76, Straight Shooters, Pheasants Forever, and NRA. He held the role of scout master in Treynor, IA for many years. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Glenwood Chapter #798**. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Tangier Shriners or Javelan.org (Service Dog organization) per his request.



**JOHN CHRISTOPHER ENGELMEYER** – Died Thursday, October 7, 2021 in Florissant, Missouri at the age of 71. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on December 25, 1949. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Florissant Chapter #794**.

**ROBERT TAIT “Bob” ERVIN III** – Died Tuesday, August 10, 2021 in Mobile, Alabama at the age of 85. The causes of death were Parkinson’s disease and dementia. He was born on January 8, 1936. He leaves behind his wife, Lee Ervin. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Robertsdale Chapter #864**. He was interred on October 15, 2021 in Spanish Fort State Veterans Cemetery. The Hughes Funeral Home of Daphne, Alabama was in charge of all the arrangements.



**GERALD WILLIAM “Jay” EXCELL, JR.** - Died peacefully Thursday, August 19, 2021 in Wilmington, North Carolina at the age of 73, surrounded by his family. The cause of death is unknown. Jay was born on January 19, 1948 in Jacksonville, Florida to the late Gerald William Excell, Sr. and Martha Mae Excell. He was the big brother to two surviving sisters – Debra Excell and Wendy McIver. Being the child of a Lieutenant Colonel, he spent much of his childhood in different states, but always considered Greene, NY his home. Jay was a United States Army Veteran of the Vietnam War (1969-1972), where he earned several medals, including a Bronze Star. He was a Green Beret, and member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. He served his country with a great sense of honor and pride, and carried that with him throughout his life. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Wilmington Chapter #885**. Jay is a graduate of UNCW and Webster University, earning a Master's Degree. He was an amazing musician who could play music simply by ear, and collected guitars. He was employed for many years by BellSouth. He spent the last years of his life as a retiree, which allowed him the time to do everything he loved such as spending time with his grandchildren, hunting, and taking naps at his leisure. He enjoyed meeting with best buddy OT Thompson and other friends for their “Wednesday morning therapy group” at McDonald's, where the senior coffee was always hot. Jay is survived by his wife of 40 years, Jane (née Blythe) Excell, as well as daughters Allison Lynn Homick (Paul) and Lyndsey Presley (Justin Burke). In addition to his wife and children, Jay is also survived by grandchildren Noah, Gabriel, Joel, Micah, and Isla. “Grampa” always had a story to tell, something to teach, and a joke to share. His laughter was infectious, and his jokes will live on for years. Jay is also survived by many other family members and friends. He always had time to help someone, call someone, and never shied away from giving his opinion. He had a great love of God, family, and his country. He had a larger than life personality, and to know him was

to know greatness. As Jay would say, "Glad you got to see me". Indeed, all who knew him were very glad, and he will deeply be missed. Military graveside service were held at the Oleander Gardens on Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM. Friends and family were invited to come to the home after the service to share laughs and memories of Jay. If desired, friends may make memorial contributions to Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital or the Wounded Warrior Project. Share memories and condolences with the family by clicking on the "Condolence" tab below. Wilmington Funeral and Cremation, 1535 South 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Wilmington, NC.



**VICTOR MICHAEL FORGET, JR.** – Died Thursday, August 19, 2021 in Woonsocket, Rhode Island at the age of 72. The cause of death was brain cancer. He was born on December 23, 1948 in Manchester, New Hampshire to the late Victor Michael Forget, Sr. and Rose (née Duquette) Forget. He was the husband of the late Barbara (née Robinson) Forget. Victor was a machine operator for Dennison Corp. Victor served valiantly in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War from 1966-1968. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart with two gold stars, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze campaign stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 device, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Medal Color with Palm), Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Citation (Civil Actions Medal, First Class Color with Palm), Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – James Michael Ray Memorial (Woonsocket) Chapter #818**. He is survived by his son Michael Forget of Woonsocket, a daughter Shannon McKinnon of Waterville, ME, his brother Leo, his sisters Terry and Linda, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his sister, Gloria Bianco. His funeral was held on Saturday, August 28, at 9:00 AM from the Fournier & Fournier Funeral Home, 99 Cumberland St, Woonsocket, with a prayer service beginning at 10:00 AM. The burial with full military honors was in Saint Jean the Baptiste Cemetery. Visiting hours were held on Friday from 5:00-7:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Wounded Warrior Project @woundedwarriorproject.org.



**ANTHONY "Tony" FRANZONE** – Died Tuesday, August 31, 2021 in Nassau County, New York at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 4, 1946. He was the loving husband of Lynne Franzone; devoted father of Jennifer Hoffman and Carra Moore; beloved grandfather of Nick, Matt, Lilyenne and Scarlett. He was a cherished uncle, cousin, brother-in-law and most of all friend. Tony was a proud United States Marine who served in Vietnam and was awarded 2 Purple Hearts for his bravery and outstanding service. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – New York**. He worked as a decorated NYS Court Officer and Union delegate in the Nassau District and Nassau County Courts for 30 years. He loved

to travel, play tennis and spend time with his grandchildren. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends and all that knew him. In lieu of flowers the family preferred donations be made to Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital.



**CHARLES EWING "Bud" FULLER, JR.** - Died Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at the Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy at the age of 74. He was a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The cause of death is unknown. Charles was born on October 10, 1946 in Brownsville, Pennsylvania to the late Charles Ewing Fuller, Sr. and Thelma Margaret Fuller. He graduated from Scenery Hill School in Pennsylvania. Charles served in the United States Marine Corps from 1964-1973 during the Vietnam War. Charles "Bud" was united in marriage to Teresa Malloy on June 2, 1984, in Casa Grande, California. Bud worked in his earlier years as a purchasing agent for Casa Grande Elementary School, and later was self-employed in general construction and remodeling. He participated in Run for The Wall (2013 - 2019), going from coast to coast, leading 3000 bikers leaving from California and arriving Memorial Day with 12,000 bikers including the Rolling Thunder in Washington, DC. On his return trip he looked forward in joining his brothers-in-law for "the Big Stud Tour". He dedicated his time and talents in honoring service men in roles such as Honor Guard, Tail Gunner and Ambassador for Run for the Wall and his participation in the planning committee for future Runs. He was also a member of many veteran and service organizations, American Legion, VFW, Moose, Elks, NRA and the clean plate club. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Riverside (California) Chapter #47**. Bud will be remembered as a meticulous man with a welcoming smile and generous heart. He enjoyed time with family and friends, riding his trike, and an occasional chocolate martini. He was a hero to many and a great conversationalist to young and old. Bud is survived by "The love of his life" Teresa; his siblings Connie (John) Ross of Athem, Arizona, Carol (Jake) Buchnell of Tampa, Florida and Ron (Yosh) Fuller of Chula Vista, California; his in and out-laws Eugene (Marge) Malloy of Lisle, Illinois, Kevin (Pam) Malloy of Cedar Rapids, Pam Miller of Cedar Rapids, Denise (Steve) Leas of Fairfax, Daniel (Nanette) Malloy of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Anthony (Rebecca) Malloy of Riverside, Illinois; as well as many more nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Thelma, brothers-in-law John Ross, Jack Buchnell, nephew Joey Fuller, in-laws Gerald and Dolores Malloy, Frances Malloy, Thomas Malloy, Lawrence Malloy and Louise Behling. A Celebration of Life gathering was held from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at the Brosh Chapel and The Avacentre in Cedar Rapids, located at 2121 Bowling Street SW. A time for prayer, reflection and sharing began at 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at Brosh Chapel. Military rites were conducted following the service. Private family inurnment was held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to the family.



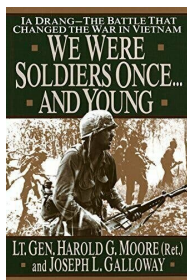


**LARRY ROLLIN FULLER** - Died Wednesday, July 28, 2021 in Venice, Florida at the age of 77. He was formerly of Amherst, New York. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in North Tonawanda on May 10, 1944 to the late Leonard and Martha Fuller. Larry was a graduate of Tonawanda High School and attended Elmhurst College. He worked for General Motors and American Axle for 37 years serving as Supervisor of Forging Operations, Tonawanda Forge. After failing at retirement he went to work for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation for 17 years. He was the son of the late Leonard and Martha Fuller, and brother of late Eugene Fuller. He is survived by his wife of 47 years Karen, two fur children Marta and Millie, sisters Connie (Bob) Knapp, Pamela (Benita) Fuller, many cousins, nephews, nieces and dear friends. Larry was a Vietnam Veteran after being drafted into the United States Army, serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion in Nha Trang. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Tonawanda Chapter #77**, VFW Post #7949, American Legion Post #159, Venice Moose #1408 and Englewood Elks #2578 and charter member of the Charlotte Motor Speedway Club. He was an avid race fan and drove the No. 6 Late Model at Lancaster Speedway. A service was held on August 20, 2021 at 12:30 PM at the Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road. 72, Sarasota, FL. 34241. In lieu of flowers, donations if desired may be made to Tidewell Hospice, 220 Wexford Boulevard, Venice, FL. 34293.



**RONALD J. "Ron" FULLER** - Died Sunday, October 3, 2021 in Kerrville, Texas at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Denver, Colorado on October 11, 1946 to the late Jim and Millie Fuller, and raised in Littleton, Colorado. He is a United States Army Vietnam Veteran and received the bronze star for heroism. Ron worked at Lockheed as an electrical technician in Palmdale, CA. He married Janet Hoagland in 1971 and just celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ron enjoyed volunteering at Meals on Wheels. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Kerrville Chapter #863**. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Gary; and grandson, Christopher Rankin. Survived by wife, Janet; two sons, Mike (and Mariah) of Craig, CO and Jon (Sara) of Paso Robles, CA; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were at the Hill Country Veteran Center at 411 Meadowview Lane on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 10:30 AM with Pastor K. Dwight Foster officiating. A reception followed, catered by Cartwheels. The burial was at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Memorials may be given to Hill Country Veteran Center, Peterson Hospice or Meals on Wheels. The family wishes to extend sincere thanks to all at Peterson Hospice for the excellent care Ron received.





**JOSEPH LEE “Joe” GALLOWAY, JR.** – Died

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 in Concord, North Carolina at the age of 79. The cause of death was a heart attack. Joe was born on November 13, 1941 in Refugio, Texas to the late Joseph Lee Galloway, Sr. and Marian (née Dewvell) Galloway. His father worked for Humble Oil. Less than a month after he was born, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Four of his mother’s brothers went to war; so did his father and five of his brothers. “I did not meet my father until the end of 1945, when he came home from the service,” Mr. Galloway said in an interview seen on C-SPAN. “My earliest memories,” he added, “are of living in houses full of frightened women looking out the window for the telegraph boy.” He was so affected by the war, he said, that he decided to become a war correspondent. He was hired by The Advocate in Victoria, Texas, when he was 17, joined U.P.I. at 19 and was bureau chief or regional manager in Tokyo, Jakarta, New Delhi, Singapore, Moscow, Los Angeles and Vietnam, where he served four stints. In addition to Dr. Liem, whom he married in 2012, he is survived by two sons, Joshua and Lee, from his first marriage, to Theresa Magdalene Null, who died in 1996. (His second marriage, to Karen Metsker, ended in divorce.) He is also survived by a stepdaughter, Li Mei Gilfillan; three grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren. He lived in Concord. Mr. Galloway acknowledged that when he arrived in Vietnam, most of what he knew about war he had learned from John Wayne movies, but he understood the need for accuracy in a combat zone. “You really don’t want to screw up a story about men who are armed and dangerous and who you will likely see again,” he said in an interview with historynet.com. He was also torn about reporting his doubts about American prospects for an honorable exit strategy. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Grace Liem. He was a war correspondent in the Vietnam War and is famous for being a part of the Ia Drang Valley battle with Lt. Gen. (Retired) Harold G. Moore. The co-authored the famous book, **We Were Soldiers Once and Young** about the Ia Drang – the battle that changed the war in Vietnam. Joe chronicled the first major battle of the war in “We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young” and raised questions about the invasion of Iraq. Joe Galloway, a war correspondent whose wrenching account of the first major battle of the Vietnam War was the basis for the book “We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young,” which became a best seller and the basis of a hit movie. His wife, Dr. Grace Liem, said the cause was complications of a heart attack. Mr. Galloway started in journalism at 17 and worked for 22 years as a war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International. He was the only civilian awarded a medal of valor by the Army for combat action in the Vietnam War. He later wrote for U.S. News & World Report and for the Knight-Ridder newspaper chain. He played a vital role in the skeptical reporting by the chain’s Washington bureau about the George W. Bush administration’s claims that Iraq had stockpiled weapons of mass destruction, claims the administration used to justify the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. “He hates war, and he loves soldiers,” Lewis Lord, a former colleague at U.S. News, told the Military Writers and Editors Association when it honored Mr. Galloway in 2006 on his return to his home in Texas

from his reporting base in Washington. In the foreword to “We Are Soldiers Still,” a sequel to “We Were Soldiers,” General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who led allied forces during the 1991 Persian Gulf war, called Mr. Galloway “the finest combat correspondent of our generation — a soldier’s reporter and a soldier’s friend.” Mr. Galloway, who carried a weapon while covering the Vietnam War as a U.P.I. correspondent, was embedded with American troops during the four-day battle of Ia Drang, in the jungle of the Central Highlands, which began a day after his 24th birthday in 1965. He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with the “V” device, denoting heroism, for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire during the engagement. Both sides claimed victory, with the United States convinced it could win a war of attrition and North Vietnam confident it could withstand whatever technological advantage the Americans wielded over Vietnamese guerrillas. The U.S. troops were commanded by Harold G. Moore, then a lieutenant colonel and later a lieutenant general, with whom Mr. Galloway would collaborate on “We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young.” The book was published in 1992 and adapted 10 years later into the Randall Wallace film “*We Were Soldiers*,” starring Mel Gibson, in which Barry Pepper played Mr. Galloway. Nicholas Proffitt wrote in The New York Times Book Review that “We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young” was “a car crash of a book; you are horrified by what you’re seeing, but you can’t take your eyes off it.” Mr. Galloway and Lieutenant General Moore published “We Are Soldiers Still: A Journey Back to the Battlefields of Vietnam” in 2008. Articles by Mr. Galloway reconstructing the battle, which became the basis of the first book, won a National Magazine Award for U.S. News & World Report in 1991. As a result of Mr. Galloway’s critical coverage of the run-up to the Iraq war, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld summoned him to a meeting with high-ranking officers and accused him of relying on sources who were retired and out of the loop. As John Walcott, a colleague of his at U.S. News, Knight Ridder and McClatchy (which bought Knight Ridder), recalled, Mr. Galloway startled the group by declaring that some of his sources “might even be in this room.” He later admitted that he only said that to rattle the assembled military brass, and that “it was fun watching ‘em sweat.” Mr. Galloway was an author, along with other U.S. News staff members, of “Triumph Without Victory: The Unreported History of the Persian Gulf War” (1992). His coverage of the later Persian Gulf conflict was portrayed in Rob Reiner’s film “Shock and Awe” (2017), in which Tommy Lee Jones played Mr. Galloway.

**ALEXANDER GASTON** – Died Monday, August 23, 2021 in Aiea, Hawaii at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 26, 1946. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Honolulu Chapter #858**.



**ARTURO N. GONZALEZ** - Died Wednesday, September 1, 2021 in El Paso, Texas at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 23, 1944 to the late Florencio Gonzalez and Teodora (née Navarrete) Gonzalez. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Francisca and his children; Eduardo, Myra, Jesus and Frank. He also leaves his beloved grandchildren: Emily, Reyna, Gabriel, Corina, Crystal, Chrissy, Haley, Lexus and one Great Grandson Francisco Javier Ambriz III; brothers; Gilbert Gonzalez and Cruz Gonzales. He was an United States Air Force Veteran and a member of Military Chapter Organizations of

the VFW #8812 and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – El Paso Chapter #844**. Visitation was from 4:00 to 8:00 PM with a Rosary at 6:00 PM on Monday, September 13, 2021 at the Sunset Funeral Home Northeast, 4631 Hondo Pass Drive. The Funeral Mass was at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 10000 Pheasant. The Committal Service was at 11:00 AM at Fort Bliss National Cemetery (West Shelter) with Honors. The services were entrusted to the Sunset Funeral Home Northeast. Please visit his online memorial at [www.sunsetfuneralhomes.net](http://www.sunsetfuneralhomes.net).



**JOYCE A. "Joy" HALL** - Died Wednesday, September 1, 2021 in Dover, Delaware at the age of 72. The cause of death is unknown. Joy was born on July 23, 1949 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late Stanley Grygo, Sr. and Ethel (née Ward) Grygo. She moved to Dover in 1973 from Jefferson, Pennsylvania. She worked for the State of Delaware in the Department of Transportation for 28 ½ years retiring in 2004, and then worked part-time for 5 years after her retirement. Joy was a lifetime Associate member of the FOP Lodge 3, Ladies of the Elks Lodge #1903, Lioness Club, a member of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America - Dover Chapter #850**. She was also a member of the Calvary Assembly of God's Church in Dover where she was a volunteer at the church food pantry, she loved helping people. Joy enjoyed crocheting, crafts, cooking, spending time with her family and friends. Most of all she loved going to her "Happy Place" in Chincoteague, VA. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Ronald "*Ronnie*" Hall, brother, Stanley Grygo, Jr. and grandson, Cody Williams Hall. She is survived by her stepchildren, Christopher Hall and his wife Christine of Ft. Walton, FL and Lisa Hall and her husband Jake of Valparaiso, FL; sisters, Carol Ebinger and her husband Chuck of Glastonbury, CT, and Patricia Roach and her husband Jim of Philadelphia, PA; sister-in-law, Dottie Grygo; grandchildren, Korey Morelli of Valparaiso, FL and Haley Snipes of Ft. Walton, FL; great granddaughter, Annalyse Poremba; several nieces and nephews and two lifelong friends and caregivers, Kathleen Robinson and Louise Katarba, who were by her side until the end. And not to be forgotten were her beloved and loyal dogs, Spencer and Brandon. A Celebration of Life was held at 1:00 PM at Calvary Church, 1141 East Lebanon Road (Route 10), Dover. Friends were permitted to visit one hour prior. The interment was in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Camden. In lieu of flowers the family suggested contributions be made to the Delaware Hospice Center, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963.

**CRIS MATTHEW HAMILTON** - Died Monday, July 5, 2021 in Tucson, Arizona at the age of 81. The cause of death is unknown. Cris was born on February 27, 1940. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Arizona**.

**ROBERT LEROY HANAFIN** – Died Thursday, August 6, 2020 in Beavercreek, Ohio at the age of 69. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 9, 1950. He was a veteran of the

Vietnam War. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Ohio**. He was under the care of Tobias Funeral Home - Beavercreek Chapel.



**DANIEL GARY HARTSFIELD** - Died Saturday, September 11, 2021 in Columbia, Missouri at the age of 73. The cause of death was Agent Orange-related Parkinson's disease, chronic lymphocytic leukemia and Diabetes Mellitus-Type II. Mr. Hartsfield was born on June 8, 1948 in Fort Pierce, Florida to the late Charles and Verna Hartsfield. Daniel graduated from Dan McCarty High School in 1967. He then joined the United States Army in March of 1968 and was sent to Vietnam in August of 1968 and then returned home in August of 1969. He served in Fort Riley, KS, for the remaining of his military time until December 28, 1970 after coming home from Vietnam. He received several medals including: National Defense Service Medal, Two Overseas Bars, Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal W/60 DVC, Sharpshooter (M-14 Rifle), and Marksman (M-16 Rifle). Daniel took great pride in his military service. He had *Lifetime Memberships* in **Vietnam Veterans of America – Moberly Chapter #70** and in VFW and he always enjoyed going for coffee in the mornings with his military buddies in Columbia, MO. He retired in 2006 from County Clerk's Office after 35 years of service and moved to Columbia, MO. Survivors include his high school sweetheart of 53 years, Karen (née Franklin) Hartsfield; son, Keith (Celeste) Hartsfield; daughter, Elisa (David) Pinkley; granddaughter, Haylee Hartsfield; grandson, Joey Pinkley; sister, Linda (Joe) Johnson; 2 half-sisters, Kathryn Davis, and Patricia Williams; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Charles and Verna Hartsfield and mother-in-law, Elsie Franklin. He truly enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren and he will be sorely missed by all. Special thanks to all of Daniel's doctors at the Harry S. Truman VA in Columbia, MO. Daniel is in good company now in heaven, talking to his parents and in-laws, watching Mizzou football, and fishing with his Veteran friend, Henry. He is free of pain and misery from Parkinson's Disease and Leukemia caused by Agent Orange. Visitation was held on Friday, September 24, 2021 from 5-6:00 PM with a service at 6:00 PM at the Haisley Funeral Home. A private family interment took place at the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to Central Missouri Food Bank, 2101 Vandiver Drive, Columbia, MO, 65202, (Please note "In memory of Daniel Hartsfield" on correspondence).



**JOHN ALEXANDER HEATH** - Veteran of Korean and Vietnam Wars, Died Saturday, August 14, 2021 in Jacksonville Beach, Florida at the age of 87. The cause of death was heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina on November 27, 1933. He was a veteran of both the Korean and the Vietnam Wars. He served in

the United States Navy Seabees from January 27, 1974 to November 30, 1986. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Jacksonville Chapter #1046**. John is survived by his wife Helen "Beth" Heath; children Johnnie Jones and Carolyn Keen of Grand Prairie, Texas; Deborah Bird and Wil Slagle of Jacksonville, Fla.; Sheryl Suto of Jupiter, Fla.; and grandchildren Michael King, Michelle Phillips, Dustin and Ryan Keen, Matthew Suto, Emily, Charles, and Thomas Slagle. John was preceded in death by his son Robert Heath and daughter Jani Morris.



**TERRY L. HEATH** – Died Friday, August 20, 2021 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana at the age of 74. The cause of the death is unknown. Terry was born on March 14, 1947 in Milan, Indiana to the late Charles and Lucille (née Eckstein) Heath. He served proudly in the United States Army as a truck driver and a forward observer on OH-6 helicopters during his two tours in Vietnam between 1967-1969. For his extraordinary service he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal (w/14 Oak Leaf Clusters), Purple Heart (w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster) and the Aircraft Crewman Badge. Following his military service, he received his Bachelor's from Eastern Kentucky University and his Masters from Xavier University. On December 19, 1970, he married Martha Jane Coleman. They raised two sons, Matt and Mark, as well as being the parents to multiple other students of theirs over the years. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Aurora Chapter #71**. Terry had a passion for hunting, fishing, farming, and making the world better by being a teacher and mentor to the students of both, Campbell County and Lawrenceburg High Schools. The highlights of his time as a teacher were when one of his former students would gain achievements in their chosen fields of employment. His passion was watching the growth of his students and ensuring they were prepared for the challenges of the world in addition to being successful in his courses. Terry was preceded in death by his father, Charles, his mother Lucille, and his bride of 39 years Martha. He is survived by his brothers Larry (Cindy) and Gary "Lucky" (Marsha), his sister Bonnie (Terry), his children Steven "Matt" (Anna) and Mark Heath, his grandchildren Nathaniel, Benjamin, and Evan, as well as numerous nieces, and a host of children he and Martha unofficially adopted. A visitation was held on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Dennis George Funeral home at 44 South Miami Avenue, Cleves, Ohio, and a graveside service was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the Maple Grove Cemetery, Maple Grove Cemetery Road, Cleves, Ohio.



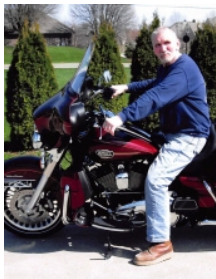
**STEVEN ALLEN "Steve" HEPP** - Died Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at his home in Watertown, Wisconsin at the age of 66. Steve passed peacefully in his sleep after a long brave fight with congestive heart failure and a shorter, but no less brave fight with liver cancer. He was far too young at 66 years old. He was born on November 29, 1954 in Watertown to the late

Reuben and Shirley (née Eckhardt) Hepp. He was raised on the family farm, one in a large family of eight children. He was a 1972 graduate of Watertown High School. Soon after graduation, at the age of 17, he was off to enlist in the United States Marine Corps, where he served proudly from 1972 to 1976, some of which was aboard the USS Midway as Assistant Brig Warden. He was a very staunch U.S. Marine supporter (and all branches of the military) for the rest of his life and a charter member in the Bartelme-Schwefel Detachment #349 of the Marine Corps League here in Watertown. On May 19, 2007, he married Sue Gawel at Aero Park in Watertown and they had many happy years together. Steve was an entrepreneur at heart and brought the first limousine service, Steve's Limousine, to Watertown, which he owned and operated for 36 years before selling for health reasons earlier this year. Steve also had stake in various taverns in Watertown, 4 of a Kind, Aces and Eights, and of course, Silver Eagle Saloon, which remains owned and operated by family. Steve enjoyed traveling and did so all over the world. He also very much enjoyed having a good time with his family and friends. So many people have great memories with him. He was a proud man and veteran and always stood up for his beliefs and for those he loved. Steve was an amazing husband, father, and grandfather to his family. He always had their best interests at heart and took great strides to make sure they would be all right, especially after he knew he would have to leave them so soon. Steve was a *Life Member* of the Marine Corps League, VFW, Amvets, and **Vietnam Veterans of America - Fort Atkinson Chapter #409**. He was also a member of the American Legion Post #189, Watertown Elks, Watertown Moose, Abate of Wisconsin, and a lifetime member of b-CAUSE We Care. He was an honorary member of Fire and Iron Motorcycle Club. Steve served on numerous city committees, which included being a past chairman of the Watertown Transit Commission, serving eight years; past President of the Police and Fire Commission, serving thirteen years; and also served as President of the Watertown Licensing Board, seven years. Steve served as Commandant of the Marine Corps League in Watertown multiple times and spent six years at state level as Commandant of the MCL Wisconsin SW Division. Steve was very active in the Tavern League of Wisconsin serving for six years on the TLW State Board of Directors, spent thirty years on the Jefferson County Tavern League's Board of Directors, and was President of the JCTL for seven years. Steve designed and secured memorials for the Watertown Veterans Park and the Marine Corps League Aero Park, including the 9/11 memorial for Aero Park. He also designed and co-donated a granite bench and flag poles for the newer Watertown Sharp Corner Park. Steve was a fundraising extraordinaire and he received numerous awards throughout his successful time here on earth, giving back to this community he so loved. Some of these awards include: the Alfred and Helen Krahn Award, being named Citizen of the Year for Watertown, Marine of the Year, and was also a Watertown Main Street Bridge naming recipient. Most recently, the City of Watertown honored Steve for his decades of service and volunteerism to Watertown by proclaiming May 4<sup>th</sup> "Steve Hepp Day," which was a very proud day for him and his family. Steve is survived by his wife, Sue Hepp of Watertown; daughters, Shannon "Shae" Hepp and Summer Hepp; grandchildren, Carlos Gonzalez and Jocelyn "Jay" Bright; siblings, Sharon Nienow, Dale Hepp, Jerry (Linda) Hepp, Dave (Jane) Hepp, Russ (Jill) Hepp, Rose (Vic) Anderson, and Ron (Laurie) Hepp; parents-in-law, Edward and Virginia Gawel; siblings-in-law, Ed(Cheryl) Gawel, Dave (Vickie) Gawel, Jim Gawel, and Bob (Laura) Gawel; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, in infancy, Diane; and brother-in-law, Bary Nienow. Funeral services were held on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 4:00 PM at the Hafemeister Funeral Home with



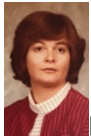
Pastor Anthony Schultz officiating. Family and friends gathered at the funeral home from 10:00 AM until the time of the service. Steve, of course, was resting comfortably in his preferred attire: shorts and a patriotic shirt. Everyone was welcomed to dress comfortably as well. After the service, family and friends were invited to Aero Park for a light meal and fond remembrance of Steve in the park he designed and cared so much about. Military rites were also conducted by American Legion Post #189 at that time. Entombment took place at Glenview Memorial Gardens on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 10:00 AM. The Hafemeister Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Watertown was in charge of the arrangements for the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.hafemeisterfh.com](http://www.hafemeisterfh.com). The family extended their many thanks to the doctors, nurses, and staff at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital and also to Rainbow Hospice for the support that they provided in his last few days.

**ROY LEE HOLLINS** – Died Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at Travis Air Force Base, California at the age of 81. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Lawton, Oklahoma on April 30, 1940. He is survived by his wife, Melanie. He served in the United States Army and did one tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**.



**CHARLES EUGENE HOUSE** - Died Tuesday, July 13, 2021 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the age of 69. The cause of death is unknown. Charles was born on February 7, 1952 in Hodgenville, Kentucky to the late Charles Madison and Stacie Marie (née Despain) House. Charles is a 1971 graduate of Lawrence Central High School. He served in the United States Marine Corps. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Indianapolis Chapter #295**. He married his love, Nancy Sue Crannor. Charles was a tremendously loving individual. He never had a bad word to say about anyone. He was overly dedicated to his work and never missed a day, even while under the weather. Charles was a true survivor who battled cancer for 15 years. He never complained, never took a break, and never gave up hope. He worked as a laborer for a few construction sites around Indianapolis over the years. He retired after 10 years with Gibraltar Construction. In Charles' younger years, he enjoyed riding 4-wheelers with his son Charlie and taking family vacations to Panama City. In his more mature years, Charles joined the Masonic Lodge in Lawrence, enjoyed riding Harley Davidsons, hiking in Fort Ben Harrison State Park, looking forward to time spent with his brothers, spending time with friends, volunteering for 8 years with his comrades in Post #261 for area Funeral Guard honors, and supporting our 4-legged friends with the Humane Society. But above all, family was Charles' priority, and his family will miss him beyond words. He is survived by his loving son, Charlie (Samantha) House; grandsons: Charlie Blake House and Clayton Madison House; brothers: Benny (Kathy) House, Eddie (Janice)

House, and Ricky House; several nieces and nephews; his buddies on Post #261; and many friends and former work colleagues. Charles was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Nancy Sue House; and sister, Connie Robbins. Ride your Harley's over to Stillinger Family Funeral Home, 1780 West Main Street, Greenfield, on July 26, 2021 from 3:00 until 6:00 PM to attend visitation and stay for the service immediately following at 6:00 PM, officiated by Pastor Ronnie Romans. As a last salute, his buddies in Post #261 will afford him military honors. Memorial contributions may be made to support Charles's love for animals at your local favorite Humane Society. If you would like to sign the online guest book or send condolences to the family, you may do so by visiting [www.stillingerfamily.com](http://www.stillingerfamily.com).



**ELIZABETH SUE (née Tibbs) HUGHES** – Died Saturday, August 21, 2021 at Princeton Community Hospital in Princeton, West Virginia at the age of 74. She was a resident of Princeton. The cause of death is unknown. She was born on July 26, 1947 in Bluefield, West Virginia to the late Glen and Georgia Tibbs. Sue was a retired nurse and last worked at Health South in Princeton. She was a member of Johnston Chapel Baptist Church in Princeton, was a *Life Member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Princeton Chapter #628*. She loved to sew. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Gene Tibbs, Ward Tibbs, and Charles Tibbs. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, William Dale “Bill” Hughes, of Princeton; two daughters, Melissa “Missy” King of Illinois, and Brandi Hughes-Gautier and husband Tracy of Chapel Hill, NC; four grandchildren, Megan King, Owen King, Jeremy Gray, and Katherine Orlich; and one great-granddaughter, A.J. Gray. A memorial service to celebrate Sue's life was held at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at the Seaver Funeral Home in Princeton with Eulogist Tracy Gautier officiating. Friends visited the family at the funeral home from 4:00 PM until the service hour on Wednesday.



**MICHAEL J. HUGHES** - Died Sunday, August 8, 2021 at the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, New York at the age of 72. He was a resident of Waverly, New York. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Waverly on January 19, 1949 to the late Robert and Betty (née Rea) Hughes. Michael is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Nancy Hughes of Waverly; his daughter, Julie Romano of Waverly; granddaughter, Bella Romano of Waverly; his sister, Ann Nusbaum of Waverly; his brother, Bobby (Linda) Hughes; along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. Michael went on to graduate in 1967 from Waverly High School. He attended Troy State and Elmira College and received his coaching certification from Corning Community College. He started his working career in 1965 at Ted Clark's and had many jobs until he was hired at the USPS in 1978 and was a clerk/letter carrier in Waverly for 27 years, retiring in 2005. Michael served in the United States Air Force from 1970 to 1974 and received the special unit citation twice, his sharp shooter ribbon, good conduct medal, foreign unit award and the Viet Nam ribbon. He was life time member of the American Legion where he served as finance officer and

secretary on the board of directors for two years; commander of the Waverly VFW for 15 years where he helped established the Vietnam Moving Wall Scholarship Fund; member of the Catholic War Vets; Waverly Moose; Waverly Athletic Booster Club; Waverly Recreation Commission; Coached Waverly Girls Basketball for 15 years and was a proud Red Cross blood doner. Michael enjoyed fishing, golf and most of all he enjoyed watching Bella play sports. He was very active in youth sports and his community. Michael loved to travel and would always stop in to the local VFW. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Elmira Chapter #803**. A time of calling was held on Thursday, August 12, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Blauvelt Funeral Home, 625 Broad Street, Waverly, New York. Full Military Honors were accorded Michael by the Valley Color Guard at the conclusion of calling hours at 12:00 Noon at Blauvelt Funeral Home, 625 Broad Street, Waverly, New York. Memorial donations may be made in Michael's memory to the Vietnam Moving Wall Scholarship, c/o Waverly VFW, Post #8104, 206 Broad Street, Waverly, NY 14892. For those wishing to send a message of sympathy to Michael's family may visit our Facebook page or in "Obituaries" at [www.blauveltfuneralhome.com](http://www.blauveltfuneralhome.com).



**ALBIN FELIX IRZYK** (USA, BG-Ret.) – Died Monday, September 10, 2018 in West Palm Beach, Florida at the age of 101. The cause of death was old age. He was born in Salem, Massachusetts on January 2, 1917. When General George Patton raced his 3<sup>rd</sup> Army across Europe in World War II, a 27-year-old commanding a tank battalion for him was Albin F. Irzyk. The distinguished war veteran, author, educator and lecturer died Sept. 10 at age 101 at his home in West Palm Beach, where he had lived since the 1970s. "I always say there is no greater calling than putting on a military uniform and serving your country," Irzyk, who was a brigadier general, told The Palm Beach Post for a 2009 feature. "I also say there's no human endeavor that compares to commanding troops in combat." He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – West Palm Beach Chapter #25**. Albin Irzyk, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT in 1940, was the son of Catholic Polish immigrants was born in Salem, Mass., north of Boston, in 1917, at the height of U.S. involvement in World War II. He graduated from the school that later became the University of Massachusetts and where he was a three-time varsity letterman in football and baseball. In 1964, Sports Illustrated would name him a Silver Anniversary All America. In World War II, Albin Irzyk commanded a tank battalion during the Battle of the Bulge. (Family photo) Irzyk signed up for the Army on July 1, 1940, and ended up at the 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment. His commander was Patton. His World War II exploits include action at the Battle of the Bulge, where he commanded 14 tanks and 3,500 troops and was in a tank that was hit by German fire. He was a founding member and vice chairman of the South Florida Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. "We were so cold, you could not get any colder," Irzyk told The Palm Beach Post at the local group's 2013 reunion. "We had two enemies: the Germans and the weather." Many of Irzyk's men were killed in a German counterattack. In his book "He Rode Up Front for Patton," he described "the frightening, demoralizing, intimidating, unreal sounds, screeches, and screams of

high velocity tank gun rounds hitting, crashing, exploding, and ricocheting all around them. It shook, staggered, numbed, alarmed and unnerved the men.” Retired Brig. Gen. Albin Irzyk kisses his wife of 68 years after being surprised with a cake in honor of their anniversary during a Battle of the Bulge luncheon at the Embassy Suites Sunday, April 27, 2014. After the smooch, Irzyk used his remarks to applaud the efforts of the vets who he said had to battle both the Germans and weather in the Battle of the Bulge. (Damon Higgins / The Palm Beach Post) Gary Higgins, president of the national Battle of the Bulge veterans’ group, said Friday night he was at the group’s national convention in Colorado and had not heard of Irzyk’s passing but would mark it at the convention’s banquet Sunday. Higgins, a Vietnam War veteran who had three relatives in the battle, said he met Irzyk in March in West Palm Beach at a meeting of the local chapter. He said Irzyk “went above and beyond our ‘greatest generation’ members. A leader in all aspects of his military career and personal life.” Irzyk died just two months after the July 8 death of George Fisher, a Palm Beach resident and the local group’s president. Fisher was 93. In April 1945, Irzyk’s battalion had liberated the first concentration camp in Germany, and throughout his later life, he would present lectures on the Holocaust. After World War II, Irzyk commanded the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Europe in the 1961 Berlin Crisis. And in the Vietnam War, he led commands in Saigon during the 1968 Tet Offensive and later in that country’s war-torn central highlands. He escaped serious injury when his helicopter conked out, forcing the pilot to crash-land from 3,000 feet. Albin Irzyk of West Palm Beach. (Bruce R. Bennett/The Palm Beach Post) Irzyk retired from active duty in 1971, with the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts, as well as the Distinguished Service Medal, three Legions of Merit awards, and 11 Air Medals. Later, he was headmaster of a private secondary school and sat on numerous boards. He also was a member and frequent speaker at veterans’ groups. He authored six books: four about World War II, one about the Tet Offensive and one about the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment. In July 2012, Irzyk’s 1920s wooden home at 2527 Flagler Drive caught fire, but city firefighters doused the blaze and saved both the home and its irreplaceable mementoes. Irzyk praised the firefighters, who threw a lasagna dinner for him and his wife. “This guy is like John Wayne incarnate,” West Palm Beach Fire Capt. Butch Barndt said at the time. Irzyk is survived by his wife of 72 years, Evelyn, along with three children, a nephew, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery this year, his son Albin Jr. said Friday from Wadsworth, Ill., near Chicago. He said he would like his father “to be remembered as a family man and a patriot who loved and faithfully served his country for his entire life.”



**C. GORDON JACKSON, SR.** – Died Saturday, September 25, 2021 in Felton, Delaware at the age of 77, after a long battle with a long-term illness. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on December 13, 1943 to the late Leroy and Dorothea Jackson. In addition to his parents, he is also predeceased by his wife Sally; his sisters Pauline and Kiki; his brothers Harry and Leo. He is survived by his sister Rita; daughter Elizabeth; son Gordon Jr; grandchildren Jimmy, Andy, Alisha and Jon; and his great grandchildren Taylor, Hailey, Josh, Little Taylor, James, Julian, Carter and Luca; and several nieces and nephews. Gordon was a Vietnam Veteran and

retired from the United States Air Force Reserves in 2003. He spent over 40 years serving his country. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Dover Chapter #850**. He enjoyed fishing, watching sports, especially his Baltimore Ravens and the time he was able to spend with his family. Most of all, Gordon enjoyed entertaining us all with his music which he shared with all of us. He will be remembered for his amazing talent. The Funeral Service was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Funeral Home of Michael J. Ambruso, 1175 South State Street, Dover, DE where a visitation was offered at 10:00 AM until service time. Condolences may be shared via [www.ambruso.com](http://www.ambruso.com). In lieu of flowers, make donations to The American Cancer Society, [donate3.cancer.org](http://donate3.cancer.org).



**LeMOYNE A. "Lee" JACKSON** - Died Sunday, September 26, 2021 at the Good Samaritan Society in Clear Lake, South Dakota at the age of 82. He was a resident of Watertown, South Dakota. The cause of death is unknown. Lee was born on July 14, 1939 in Fairfield, Washington to the LeMoyne William Jackson and Pauline (née Voegelé) Jackson. When he was a small boy his mother moved him and his brother back to Roscoe, South Dakota and later married Art Kolb, giving Lee a stepbrother and stepsister. Lee went to country grade school before working for local farmers and a combine crew. After, he lived with an aunt and uncle in California until he entered the United States Army, serving for 6 years. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Watertown Chapter #1054**. After serving, Lee worked on road construction bringing him to Watertown, South Dakota, where he met and married the love of his life, Phyllis (Schafer) Regnier, in 1975. Through Phyllis, he became a proud stepfather to Phyllis' daughter, Peggy. His pride and love for his family only grew stronger with his grandchildren and great-grandson. Lee was an active member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He held all local offices, eventually becoming president of the North Dakota and South Dakota bi-state region in 1993-1994. Lee was employed at Minnesota Rubber and then Terex Telelect for 25 years. After his retirement, he worked part time for the Big Sioux Nursery. He was an active member of both the Watertown Grace Point Church and Senior Center where he enjoyed fellowship and senior games. Lee was an avid gardener and enjoyed sharing his produce with the local nursing home and his neighbors. He also enjoyed woodworking and painting. Lee was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Pauline and Art Kolb; father, LeMoyne William Jackson; brother, Jim Jackson; and stepbrother, LeRoy Kolb. Lee is survived by his wife, Phyllis; stepdaughter, Peggy (Robert) Constant of Bozeman, MT; granddaughter, Katherine King of Bloomington, MN; grandson, Houston (Amy) King of Bozeman, MT; and great-grandson, Theodore King of Bozeman MT. He is also survived by siblings: Rick (Judy) Jackson, Mable (John) Baumgartner, Jeannie Jackson, Don (Vickie) Schafer, Nancy O'Halloran, Sue Ann Anderson, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Memorial services were held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at the Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel in Watertown, SD. Pastor Steve Biswell officiated. Visitation took place prior to the memorial service from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM. Private family graveside services took place at Mount Hope Cemetery. Military graveside honors were provided by the Military Funeral Honors Team of the South Dakota Army National Guard and the Codington County Post #17 of the American Legion, Watertown. The honorary pallbearers were Lee's former



co-workers at Terex. The arrangements were made by the Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel. [www.crawfordosthus.com](http://www.crawfordosthus.com).



**EUGENE G. "Pollock" JAKUBENAS** - Died Monday, September 13, 2021 in Oconto Falls, Wisconsin at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin on January 2, 1945 to the late Edwin Jahnke (stepfather) and Elizabeth (Jakubenas). Following graduation from Green Bay East High School, Pollock joined the United States Marine Corps and served his country in Vietnam. After returning from Vietnam, he attended and graduated from NWTC with his degree in Police Science. Pollock went on to become a police officer in De Pere and continued his education at Saint Norbert College, graduating with the Class of 1977. He started the police force in Coleman in 1974, during which time he also spent a year with the SEABEES. After the SEABEES, Pollock resumed serving his country by joining the United States Army Reserves and was stationed in Honduras, Kuwait, Turkey and Bosnia. Pollock loved to help others and spent a lot of his time doing odd jobs for whoever needed help. He was lucky to retire young, spending much of his time with his grandkids as he could. He loved his country and helping people. Survivors include his wife, Verna; children, Julie (Sonny) Belongia, Bobbi Jo Murphy, and Lisa Jakubenas; eight grandchildren, Jennifer, Jacklyn, Jessica, Dalton (Elizabeth), Emily, Kendra, Ashley, Kim; four great-grandchildren, Madalynn, Trevor-John, Maverick, and granddaughter-to-be; and his sister, Nat (Lee) Tank. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Elizabeth; a son-in-law, Trevor Murphy and his stepbrother, Robert Jahnke. Visitation was held at Saint Anthony Catholic Church, 253 North Franklin Street, Oconto Falls, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 1:00 PM with Reverend Father Greg Parent officiating and concluded with military honors. The Blaney Funeral Home assisted the family. To send online condolences, please go to [www.BlaneyFuneralHome.com](http://www.BlaneyFuneralHome.com).



**DONALD EUGENE "Don" JOHNSTON** - Died Saturday, August 7, 2021 at UnityPoint Health – Trinity in Rock Island, Illinois at the age of 73. He was a resident of Moline, Illinois. The cause of death is unknown. Don was born in Moline on April 29, 1948 to the late Eugene "Squeak" and Irene (née Swanson) Johnston. He graduated from Moline High School in 1966. Don was a United States Marine Corps veteran serving during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Rock Island Chapter #299*. He married Debbie Johnston with whom he had two sons, Donny and Jasen. They later divorced. Don worked as a business agent for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 District 8, Rock Island, Ill. He also owned and operated JV Consulting – a mailings company. Don was elected Moline Township supervisor in 2005. He was appointed to the county board in 2010 and elected that November, representing District #11. He was very active in the Democratic party and served as the 17<sup>th</sup>

Congressional Democratic state central committeeman. Don also served as the Bi-Labor Liaison for U.S. Senator of Illinois, Paul Simon. Don was a member of the YMCA for forty-plus years. Don was a busy man and worked extremely hard at the job at hand. It was about five years ago he decided to buy himself a boat. He became Captain of his ship, known as, "Cabin Fever." Don absolutely loved boating and never regretted it. This awarded him much needed time with family and friends doing what he loved. Those left to cherish his memory include his son, Jasen Johnston, Commerce City, CO; two-grandchildren; sister, Jane Johnston, Moline; and life-long friends, Pat Veronda. He was preceded in death by his parents and son, Donny Johnston. A memorial service was held at 9:00 AM on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home and Crematory, 3030 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island. A memorial visitation was from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the funeral home. The inurnment took place at Rock Island National Cemetery, Arsenal Island, where military rites were presented. Memorials may be made in care of The ARC of the Quad Cities. Online condolences, memories and expressions of sympathy may be left for the family at [wheelanpressly.com](http://wheelanpressly.com).



**PAUL EVERETT JORDAN** - Died Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at SOMC Hospice at the age of 76, surrounded by his loving family. He was a resident of Lucasville, Ohio. The cause of death was the coronavirus COVID-19. He was born April 9, 1945, in Lucasville to the late Frank and Thelma (née Crabtree) Jordan. Paul was a retired Laborer for Waller Brothers Stone Company in McDermott, a member of Duck Run Community Church, and a United States Army Vietnam Veteran. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – South Shore (Kentucky) Chapter #1006**. He was also preceded in death by three brothers, Ted, Harold, and Edwin Jordan; and four sisters, LaMonde Buckler, Ruby Fields, Rosella Stidham, and Barbara McClary. Paul is survived by his wife, Marsha (née Miller) Jordan, whom he married July 30, 1966, in Celina, Tennessee; two daughters, Melissa (David) Crabtree of Lucasville and Brandy Jordan of Lucasville; six grandchildren, Devin, Daryan, Ethan, Jordan, Taylor and Chloe; and one sister, Sharon Evans of Groveport. Graveside services were conducted at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 in the Scioto Burial Park with Dave Lute officiating. Graveside military rites were performed by the William Baker and James F. Irwin Posts of the American Legion. Friends visited from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on Monday at the McKinley Funeral Home in Lucasville.



**JOHN J. KAUSA** - Died Friday, August 20, 2021 at home in Pittstown, New Jersey at the age of 79, with his family by his side after a long and hard-fought battle with Agent Orange-related esophageal cancer. He was born in Dearborn, Michigan on March 4, 1942 to the late John and Mary Kauza. John grew up with a life-long love of the outdoors, hunting and fishing in northern Michigan. He graduated first in his class at Holy Redeemer High School and, years later, was honored as a Distinguished Graduate. He credited his love of history, writing, and English to Sister Stephanie Mueller and Sister John Mary Baker, two of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters (IHM's) who taught him and remained his life-long friends. Accepting a Congressional

appointment from Congressman John Dingell, John entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering, Class of 1963, and choosing Infantry as his branch of service. After successfully completing Airborne and Ranger schools, John married Mary, his "OAO" (One and Only) on December 28, 1963 in the Catholic Chapel at West Point. They spent their honeymoon driving from the east coast along the famous Route 66 to San Francisco and sailing on the "SS Lurline" to John's first assignment with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Hawaii. John served three combat tours in Vietnam, volunteering for the first one in 1965 as a Huey aerial door gunner in the Mekong Delta region for "Operation Shotgun." Subsequent tours were in the Central Highlands (Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrols: LLRP) and the Hue region of Vietnam. After resigning from the Army, John began a successful thirty-year career at AT&T, living in Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Chicago, Cincinnati, New Jersey, Toronto, and New Jersey again, from where he retired. John quickly became known as a "Turn-Around Master" by serving in multiple roles as he would take struggling products and services and turn them into successful enterprises. His career positions included Operations Manager, Product Management, and Vice-President of AT&T Global Security (the last position he held before retiring), where he changed AT&T's culture and business practices for more robust security and was accountable for protecting over 6,000 physical locations and more than \$50 billion in annual revenue. For five consecutive years under John's leadership, AT&T never experienced a security intrusion. He was recognized as "Industry Best in Class" and was a key contributor to the President's Commission to Protect Key Infrastructure, where he briefed former President Clinton on network security. John earned an MBA in International Marketing from Loyola University and was pursuing a PhD in Economics from the University of Cincinnati when he was transferred to New Jersey. John infused his values of integrity, dedication, hard work, and achievement into all of his teams, inspiring and leading them to be their best. His honesty and quick mind in recognizing solutions helped him succeed in all the positions he held. If someone had to describe John's initial impact on the AT&T teams, it was "Shock and Awe" as he was a breath of fresh air with his straight-forward talk, his tactical approach to solving problems, and his ability to ensure that his teams were equipped to succeed. But of all, John's greatest achievement at AT&T was his investment in the people he mentored. He had a unique gift of recognizing talent and helping others make the next career step with his sage advice (where often the advice was part of "Kauza's Rules"). He did this numerous times, whether with secretaries, staff, or managers. John was especially supportive of his female employees as he would say, "They worked harder because they thought they had something to prove." But the truth was that he just enjoyed the boisterous environment when around these strong, opinionated women, as most of the time he was smiling like a proud team leader. In order to get onto the Kauza Team, you had to pass his four-hour interview with over seventy questions (one could liken it to "boot camp"). But once you passed, it was a great learning experience under John's leadership. And perhaps the most durable and poignant lesson he taught was Kauza Rule #1, "Never assume the other person has the same value system you do." After retiring, John spent many hours doing what he loved, spending time with family and helping those around him. His forty-year volunteer work with the Boy Scouts began when his oldest son came home from a Boy Scout meeting and said, "Dad, the Troop needs help." With a shooting course John created, he and his instructor team taught and qualified over 6,500 Boy Scouts from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and London the safe and proper handling and enjoyment of firearms. The 5,000th Scout who earned the Rifle and Shotgun Shooting Merit

Badge received a Henry Repeating Rifle that John secured as a donation from the President of the Henry Company. John was very involved with the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Phillipsburg as well as Habitat for Humanity, and he served as a board member on the Delaware Valley Regional High School Board of Education. Among his civilian awards, John received the Freedom Foundation's National Award; the Jon Cardenas Memorial Award Honoring Character and Contribution to Hunterdon Arrowhead Scouting; and the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award. For his military service, John earned the Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachute Badge, Aerial Door Gunner Wings, as well as Expert Marksman in Rifle, Pistol, Flamethrower, Recoilless Rifle, Machine Gun, and Hand Grenade. His decorations include the Valorous Unit Citation, Distinguished Unit Citation, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal with "V" device, Air Medal with Seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and Three Overseas Bars, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Vietnam Service Medal with three Stars, Vietnam Advisory Campaign Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal, and the Airborne Assault Medal. As written in the West Point Alma Mater, "When our work is done, our course on earth is run, may it be said, "Well done, be thou at peace." He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Flemington Chapter #452**. John was pre-deceased by his parents, John and Mary Kauza, and an infant brother, Donald. John will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Mary; his two devoted sons, Christopher; John and wife, Gina; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Stephanie, Nicholas, Riley, and Katherine; sister, Sue Uram and husband, John; brother, Thomas and wife, Beverly; niece, Jacqueline Kauza; nephews, Sean and Kevin Bergin; and many cousins and friends. Friends and relatives gathered with the family on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, from 4:00 until 7:00 PM at the Martin Funeral Home, 1761 Route 31, Clinton, NJ 08809. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at Saint Catherine of Siena Church, 2 White Bridge Road., Pittstown, NJ 08867 at 11:00 AM. The interment was at a later date at West Point. John touched the lives of many he came in contact with. If you would like to share memories or stories, please feel free to leave them on his tribute wall or you can place them in his memory basket at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory can be made to The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters, 610 West Elm Avenue, Monroe, Michigan 48162; or to Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Post Office Box 245, Pittstown, New Jersey 08867.



**DANNIE CARL KEELING** - Died Saturday, August 28, 2021 in Port Sainte Lucie, Florida at the age of 75. The cause of death was hardening of the arteries. Dannie was born in Lake City, Florida on December 31, 1945 to the late William and Margaret Keeling. He returned to Florida in 2014, moving here from Louisville, Kentucky. Dannie was a proud Vietnam Veteran having served in the United States Navy. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Dickson (Tennessee) Chapter #950**. Dannie was an HVAC Technician for over 50 years. He loved westerns, talking about his service in the Navy, and helping any one in need. His greatest passion however was his family. Dannie was the beloved father of Margarite Crisp, Linda Mooney, Amanda Edgett, Danielle Woosley, and Tanya Tripp; adored grandfather of 14 and 11 great-grandchildren; and dear brother of Billy Keeling and Fred Keeling. He is also survived many more family members and friends. Visitation was held on Friday, September 3, 2021 from 2:00 to 4:00

PM at the Yates Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Port Sainte Lucie with a funeral service at 4:00 PM.

**JIMMIE ARTHUR KEETON, JR.** – Died in September 2021 in Fort Collins, Colorado at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on November 19, 1946. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lakewood Chapter #1071**.



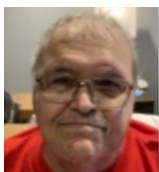
**KENNETH NORMAN "Ken" KEHRER** - Died Monday, August 30, 2021 in the home in Temperance, Michigan he shared with his fiancée, Nan York. He died at the age of 72. He resided in Broomfield, Colorado. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 23, 1948 in Monroe, Michigan to the late Norman and Bernice (née Heck) Kehrer. He was a 1966 Dundee High School Graduate where he played baseball, football, and basketball. He later attended Monroe County Community College where he played basketball, baseball and ran track. Ken proudly served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1970, with one year in Vietnam, earning the rank of Sergeant E-5. He was decorated with the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Overseas Bars, Good Conduct Medal, Expert Badge Rifle M14, Marksman Badge Rifle M16, and the Bronze Star. Ken was previously married to Hilde (née Laubenstein) Kehrer of Monroe, MI from 1971 to 1989. Ken drove truck for over 55 years, driving more than 3 million miles over the course of his career, and worked most fondly for M.C. Eipperle, Inc. He was a volunteer fireman for Ida, MI from 1978 to 1983. He was also a former member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Ida, MI. Ken re-met his true love and fiancée, Nan York, at their 40-year high school reunion in 2006. They shared many adventures together until his passing, most recently on a memorable trip to southern Ohio and northern Kentucky. Ken was a retired member of the Teamsters and was a member of the American Legion Lynn C. Weeman Post 514, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Monroe Chapter #142** and the National Rifle Association. He loved watching sports, especially NASCAR, and the Detroit Red Wings, Tigers, and Lions. He also avidly followed national politics and local news. Ken loved working on perfecting his lawn and flower beds, and even had a hand in helping to build Green Meadows Golf Course in Monroe, MI. Survivors include: his fiancée, Nan York; his daughters, Jennifer (Al) Neikirk, Julie (Terry Richard) Kehrer, and Stacy Braden; mother, Bernice Rath; siblings, Kevin (Brenda) Rath, Karl (Donna) Rath, Kathy (Ron) Iott, Kay (David) Ringel; and eight grandchildren: Kali, Austin, Jakob, Lukas, Adysyn, Sydnee, Justin and Coralyn. He was preceded in death by his father, Norman Kehrer; stepfather, Ted Rath; and siblings, Kris Rath and Karen (Frank) Orick. Family and friends visited at the Capaul Funeral Home, Ida, MI on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, from 2:00 PM until the services at 7:00 PM. Reverend Father Don Geyman of Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Traverse City, MI, officiated. The burial of the cremains took place at a later date. In-lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Wounded Warrior Project. To send the family condolences please go online to: [www.capaulfuneralhome.com](http://www.capaulfuneralhome.com).





**JOHN ISAAC KELLEY** - Died Friday, September 17, 2021 at a Chattanooga Hospital at the age of 74. He was a resident of Cleveland, Tennessee. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on February 28, 1947 to the late Jesse Kelley and Katherine Kelley who survives. Mr. Kelley was retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) after 26 years of service. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, having served in Vietnam. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Cleveland Chapter #596*. He was a very loving husband, father and grandfather and great-grandfather. Mr. Kelley loved to hunt and fish and he attended Mt. Olive Ministries. He was preceded in death by his father, Jesse Kelley; and uncle, John O. Kelley. Survivors include his mother, Katherine Kelley; wife, Glenda Kelley; sons, Brian Kelley (April) and Jeff Kelley (Kristy); grandchildren: Ashley Snyder (Alex), Thaxton Kelley, Nathaniel Kelley (Camryn), and Chandler Kelley; great-grandchildren, Malachi Snyder and Sadie Grace Kelley; twin brother, Joe Kelley and brother, Bobby Kelley; and several nieces and nephews. A graveside service was held at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at Earls Cemetery with Pastor Gary Sears and Pastor James Sears co-officiating. Nathaniel Kelley, Chandler Kelley, Thaxton Kelley, Alex Snyder, Andy Turner, and Steve May served as pallbearers. The service concluded with Military Honors and a White Dove Release Ceremony. We invite you to send a message of condolence and view the Kelley family guestbook at [www.fikefh.com](http://www.fikefh.com). The Fike-Randolph and Son Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

**JOHN R. KENNEDY** – Died Monday, September 13, 2021 in Olivehurst, California at the age of 70. The cause of death was the coronavirus COVID-19. He was born in Colon, Panama on October 7, 1950. He served in the United States Army from February 1966 to November 1969. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Kansas City (Kansas) Chapter #75*.



**ALLEN RICHARD KERBYSON** - Died Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at the Michigan Veterans Home, Chesterfield, Michigan at the age of 75, after a lengthy illness. During Allen's life he patriotically and honorably served in the United States Air Force from 1966-1978 in the Security Police K-9 dog unit and base supply serving three tours of duty in Thailand during the Vietnam War. After leaving the military he worked at the Detroit Vernors Bottling Plant (shipping and receiving section) and afterward for Atmosphere Furnace Company in Wixom, Michigan until being medically retired. Allen was very active with the VFW and was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Plymouth Chapter #528* until his health declined. Allen is survived by his sister Jeanette Seward, Port Orange, Florida, sister Dotty Lang, Okemos, Michigan, and brother Ken Kerbyson, Mountain Home, Idaho along with five nieces, three grand nieces, and one grand-nephew. Allen had a heart of gold, many friends and loved all who knew him. He will be greatly

missed. A committal service with military honors was held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly Michigan.



**SAMUEL LEWIS KEY, JR.** - Died Wednesday, August 25, 2021 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee at the age of 69. He was a resident of Smyrna, Tennessee. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born on April 14, 1952 in Knoxville, Tennessee to the union of the late Lewis Key, Sr. and Daisy Key. He served in the United States Air Force from November 1971 to July 1973. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Murfreesboro Chapter #1089**. He was predeceased by his parents; brothers, Carl Rader, David Key; sisters, Pauline Jacobs, Mary Coats, Shirley Cureton and Barbara Johnson; nieces, Carolyn Rader, Benecke Stinson. Survivors include his sister, Delbra (Charles) Mills; sister-in-law, Lillie Rader; seven nieces, six nephews, other relatives and friends. The family received friends from 12:00 Noon-12:30 PM on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at Jarnigan's Chapel. The funeral service was at 12:30 PM with Reverend Steve Simpson, officiating. The interment was in the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery-John Sevier Highway. The arrangements were made by the Jarnigan and Son Mortuary. [www.jarniganandson.com](http://www.jarniganandson.com).



**DONALD EDMOND KING, JR.** - Died Sunday, August 15, 2021 in Madison, Tennessee at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 20, 1945 in Louisville, Kentucky to the late Donald Edmond King, Sr., and Alice Elizabeth (née Carroll) King. Mr. King was retired from the United States Navy. He was also retired from Willis Corroon Insurance Company. He was a member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Madison. In his spare time, he enjoyed volunteering for AMVETS Post #1776. He was also a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Franklin Chapter #1140**. Of all of his life's accomplishments, Donald was most proud of his family. He was a loving father, brother, grandfather and great grandfather who will be missed dearly. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister Debbye Swarthout. He is survived by his daughter Kelly Kathleen (Jeff) Boyce; grandchildren Steven Carter and Brittany (Travis) Ensey; great granddaughter Emmarie Rose; brother Thomas King; sisters Judy Jackson, Suzanne Horton, and Dianne (Ray) Bryan; and several nieces and nephews. Visitation was held on Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 PM at the Spring Hill Funeral Home in Nashville. A Celebration of Life Funeral Service was at 2:00 PM. Burial with military honors was in the Historic Spring Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the AMVETS Post #1776. The arrangements were entrusted to the Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville, TN 37216.



**DONALD MICHAEL "Krafty" KRAFT** – Died Friday, September 17, 2021 in West Seneca, New York at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Lackawanna, New York on May 24, 1946. He lovingly known as "*Krafty*," was a giving and dedicated man. He was a "busy bee," always on the go. Krafty loved being heavily involved in his community and family, belonging to countless organizations. A very social person, Krafty was well-known and well-loved. Krafty was a proud firefighter for many years at Union Fire Company. During his time at Union, he was invited to dinner by one of his fellow firefighters. During that dinner, he would meet Gail Wittek, his future wife. The pair hit it off, and the rest was history. The couple was later blessed with three children; Jill, Cheryl, and Bob. Krafty adored his family, serving as a great mentor to his children, teaching them to fish, and taking them on many camping trips to various areas. His family only grew with the addition of seven grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and countless friends, including lifelong friend Tom Bausch. And, of course, his family extended to his furry friend and beloved dog, Maggie. After his time with Union Fire Company, Krafty would then join Vigilant Fire Company of West Seneca in the August of 1979. He would bravely serve for approximately 32 years, receiving life membership. A life member of the Erie County Fire Police and Erie County Firemen's Association, Krafty received countless awards for his service and dedication to improving his community. He was also a proud United States Army Vietnam-Era Veteran, also belonging to American Legion Post #735 for approximately 31 years. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Tonawanda Chapter #77**. When he was not volunteering, he worked various construction and highway department jobs to support his family. Krafty worked for ABC Paving for many years and spent 18 years working for the Town of West Seneca's Highway Department before retiring. His work history also led to membership of the #210 Laborers Union. When not working, Krafty enjoyed many activities. A lover of the outdoors, he was a member of the Erie County Conservation Society for 31 years. He enjoyed fishing and camping with his children and grandchildren and hunting. Incredibly handy, Krafty also built various projects, including a fish pond and chicken coop for his backyard. He also enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle before he couldn't anymore. As he aged, he began a few new hobbies, such as line-dancing once a week. He was also a member of the ROMEO Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out). Krafty always looked forward to having meals with the other members at least once a month. Donald "Krafty" Kraft will be remembered for his dedication and giving nature. He will be greatly missed by all those who had the honor to know him. Kraft, Donald M. of West Seneca, NY passed peacefully September 17, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Gail M. (née Wittek) Kraft; dearest father of Jill Pecoraro, Cheryl (Jeramie Helmer), and Robert Kraft; loving grandfather of Joshua Pecoraro, Matthew Pecoraro, Madelyn Helmer, Jayden Helmer, Bryce Helmer, the late Eve Marie Pecoraro, and Riley Jo Helmer; caring brother of the late Doris (late Earl) Denton and the late Marie (late William) Mersmann; dearest lifelong friend of Tom (Joanie) Bausch; also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and friends. Don was a life member of Vigilant Fire Co., American Legion Post #735, and an Army veteran serving his country during the Vietnam War. Friends were received on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00-7:00 PM at the Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., 1340 Union Road, West Seneca, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:15 AM at Queen of Heaven Roman

Catholic Church, 4220 Seneca Street, West Seneca, NY. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations were to be made to Vigilant Fire Co. and American Legion Post #735. For online condolences and donations, please visit [www.LakesideFuneralHome.com](http://www.LakesideFuneralHome.com).



**EDWARD W. "Ed" KRASNAI, JR.** - Died Monday, September 27, 2021 in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania at the age of 73, due to complications from COVID-19, surrounded by his loving family. He was formerly of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He was born in Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania on August 6, 1948 to the late Edward W. Krasnai, Sr. He was the loving husband of Susan J. (née Yartymyk) Krasnai with whom they shared 50 years of marriage. He was a 1966 graduate of Liberty High School. Ed retired from Bethlehem Steel in 1997 after 31 years of service. Ed was a proud veteran serving in the United States Marine Corps with one tour of duty in the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America - Lancaster Chapter #1008**, and lifetime member of the Mount Joy VFW Post 5752. He enjoyed restoring classic VWs and was a member of the Harrisburg Area Volkswagen Owners Club. Ed coached baseball at FBTA in Bethlehem Township, Freedom High School in Bethlehem and Donegal High School in Mount Joy. In addition to his wife Susan, he is survived by his son, Ed Krasnai fiancé of Lisa Boone of Lancaster, daughter, Jacquelyn Dehmey wife of Corey of Elizabethtown. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Abigail, Ella, Anika and Bo. He was preceded in death by his sister, Pat Craig. A Graveside Service was held at 12:30PM on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Ed's memory may be to Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc. or the National Kidney Foundation.



**ROBERT R. "Bob" KUHLMAN** - Died Wednesday, June 23, 2021 in West Bloomfield, Michigan at the age of 72. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Lima, Ohio on August 9, 1948. He was the beloved husband of Kathleen for 49 years; cherished father of Roberta (John) Kruttlin and John Kuhlman; loving grandfather of Joseph and Jeannie; dear brother of Carol (Ken) Vennekotter, Elaine (late Jim) Laudick, Stanley (Rita) Kuhlman, Kathleen (Dan) Kern, Lottie (Larry) Salisbury, Susan (Ken) Verhoff, Anthony (Cheri) Kuhlman and the late Daniel Kuhlman and brother-in-law of Stanley (Rosemary) Szasna and the late John Novak. Bob also leaves behind a host of friends, neighbors, former co-workers and loved ones too numerous to mention, and not to be left out, his loving canine pal, Chewy. Bob made the move from the farmlands of Ohio to live in the lakes area of Michigan. He loved summertime and being outside and cruising Cass Lake in our boat. Nothing gave him more pleasure than to sit down at our beachfront and watch the sunset over the lake. Bob was a devoted, kind and loving husband, father and grandfather. He was dedicated to his family beyond measure. His favorite pastimes were spending time with his son driving around just checking things out, engaging in special father/daughter bonding

activities, playing with his grandchildren and telling them crazy stories, most of which involved his Henry rifle, and he especially loved being with his wife traveling around and doing projects together as a team. Bob was an excellent and avid euchre player. He always took the chance on calling a "loaner" no matter what cards he held in his hands. He was involved in the building business for over 43 years. He was retired from his position as manager at Wimsatt Building Materials in Waterford. Bob loved to mentor and teach young men in that field. Bob was a member of Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church in Orchard Lake. Mr. Kuhlman was a Vietnam veteran of the United States Army and a proud *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America - Plymouth Chapter #528**. The "legend" of Bob will never be forgotten. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. A celebration of Bob's life was held on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 1:00 PM at the Heart of the Lakes VFW Post #1008, 1690 Airport Road, Waterford. Service begins at 1:15 PM and a luncheon was served.



**FRANK JAMES LAITKEP** - Died Tuesday, August 31, 2021 in a Richmond hospital at the age of 72. He was a resident of Wharton, Texas. The cause of death was the coronavirus COVID-19. He was born on June 26, 1949 in Wharton to the late John and Marie (née Mazoch) Laitkep. Frank was raised in the Hungerford area and attended East Bernard and graduated from Hungerford High School in 1968. He later served our country honorably in the United States Army, fighting in Vietnam. Frank married the love of his life Gertrude Leopold on July 1, 1972, in Hillje, Texas. He worked as a machinist for a few years before joining the United States Postal Service, where he worked for over 32 years. His last job was for Shoppa's where he always said he was the PR specialist; actually, he was the parts runner. He enjoyed dancing, listening to music, visiting with his Army buddies, traveling, and leading the 50's and 60's dance for over 27 years where he would dance with Gertrude to their favorite song Unchained Melody by the Righteous Brothers. Frank and Gertrude were always the go to couple if you needed Grand March leaders. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – El Campo Chapter #1069**. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Mary Ann Pospisil, Ernest Laitkep, Charlie Laitkep, and Michael Laitkep, and his father and mother-in-law Pius (Pete) and Martha Leopold. Frank is survived by his wife of 49 years, Gertrude Laitkep; son Jason Laitkep and wife, Kathy of East Bernard, daughter Bernadette Tydlacka and husband Sonny of Wharton, and son James Laitkep and wife, Amanda of Elm Grove; brothers George Laitkep, Bernard Laitkep, Johnnie Laitkep, Anthony Laitkep, and Patrick Laitkep; grandchildren Shelby Staten, Jake, Luke, Blake and Karis Tydlacka, Kadence Hernandez, Tinley and Laramie Laitkep, and great grandchildren Karson and Kenna Staten. He is also survived by his loving brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Visitation was held on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Catholic Church after 500 PM, the rosary was recited at 7:00 PM. The Funeral Mass and the Rite of Committal was held on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at Holy Family Catholic Church. The burial was in the Saint John Catholic Cemetery in Hungerford with military honors provided by members of the American Legion Post #87 and VFW Post #4474 of Wharton. Serving as pallbearers were Jeff Svatek, Brian Leopold, Timothy Evanicky, Greg Leopold, Kenny Pospisil, Kevin Laitkep, Russell Leopold, and Brian Laitkep. The Honorary Pallbearers were Frank's



grandkids and great-grandkids, Chris Laitkep, Steven Laitkep, Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter #1069, and Vietnam Veterans Neil Cater, Dennis Lietha, Jerry Beasley and Bob Heir (who proudly served next to Frank in Vietnam). Condolences may be left for the family at [www.whartonfuneralhome.com](http://www.whartonfuneralhome.com).



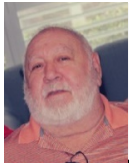
**PHILIP E. "Phil" LANG** - Died Wednesday, July 21, 2021 in Naples, Florida at the age of 78, after a three-year battle with Pulmonary Fibrosis. Phil was born in Detroit, Michigan on July 9, 1943 to the late Elmer and Marie Lang. Phil is survived by his devoted wife, Ival, of 41 years, loving daughter Shelly, Son-Law Keith Middleton, Grandson Aiden, and Sister Judith Hertlein. Also cherished family members, Susan Grady and James Cox (Deborah) plus numerous Nieces, Nephews, Great Nieces and Great Nephews. Phil graduated from McKenzie High School in 1961 and went on to complete his education at Wayne State University. In 1967 Phil was drafted into the United States Army and proudly served in the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Plymouth Chapter #528*. Phil thoroughly enjoyed his career in the Merchandising Department at Ford Motor Company. He retired from Marketing Associates as Vice President which allowed him to still contribute to Ford Motor Company. He was an avid reader, loved boating, Walleye Fishing in Michigan and Grouper Fishing in Florida. Phil will be remembered for his amazing ability to be able to tell a story down to the smallest detail! At this time, arrangements have not been finalized. Donations in his memory can be sent to CROW, PO Box 150, Sanibel, Florida 33957. [www.crowclinic.org/donate](http://www.crowclinic.org/donate).



**GLEN R. LEACH** - Died Wednesday, August 11, 2021 peacefully at home in Cleveland, Tennessee at the age of 72, with his family by his side. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on August 16, 1948 in Whitley County, Kentucky to the late John Leach and Mary Leach-Roberts who survives. Glen was a man of strong faith, who loved the Lord Jesus Christ, and a faithful prayer warrior for his family and friends. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was a 1966 graduate of Bradley Central High School where he lettered in baseball, football, and track. He continued to play baseball for Cleveland State Community College. Glen then went on to proudly serve his country during the Vietnam War as a United States Navy Seabee, NMCB1 Battalion, where he earned the National Defense Service Medal, FMF COI/Expert Rifleman Medal, as well as the Bronze Star for Valor. He retired from Bowater Paper Mill in 2000. He was an avid Ham Radio operator, active in Cleveland's local Ham Radio Club, and participated as a relay operator for the National Weather Service during local severe weather. Glen was preceded in death by his father, John W. Leach, as well as his grandparents, Jess and Fannie Hill and Millard and Amanda Leach. He is survived by his beloved wife and best friend of 52 years, Karen (née Kendrick) Leach; his children: Coby Leach, Joseph and Leslie Leach

Davis; his cherished granddaughter, Cameron Davis; mother, Mary Leach Roberts; sister and brother-in-law, Kathy and David Meadows; sisters and brothers-in-law: Cheryl and Barry Hooper, Denise and Terry Morrow; as well as many nieces and nephews. We appreciate Dr. Don Robinson, Glen's VA primary care physician, for his kindness and friendship these last few years – as well as the many other medical personnel at the Chattanooga VA clinic. Lastly, we are so grateful for the Hearth Hospice nurses who lovingly cared for our husband and father. They allowed him to be at home with family and friends, as he prepared to transition from his earthly body to his heavenly home. Visitation was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at the Candies Creek Baptist Church from 4:00-6:00 PM with a service to follow immediately after. A graveside service with full military honors was held at the Chattanooga National Cemetery the following day. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for contributions to be made to Candies Creek Baptist Church [candiescreek.com](http://candiescreek.com), where he is a member, or the Disabled American Veterans, DAV, organization [dav.org](http://dav.org). You are invited to share a personal memory of Glen or your condolences with his family at his online memorial located at [www.companionfunerals.com](http://www.companionfunerals.com). Companion Funeral and Cremation Service and the Cody family were honored to assist the Leach family with these arrangements.

**JOHN LIGNER III** - Died Sunday, August 22, 2021 in Canton, Michigan at the age of 71. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 29, 1949. He was predeceased by his wife, Karen. He is survived by his daughters, Tracy Kroman (Ryan) and Kristie Ligner; and his grandchildren, Lauryn, Ashlyn and Emersyn Kroman. He is also survived by many in-laws, nieces, and nephews. He served in the United States Army from August 1969 to March 1971. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Plymouth Chapter #528**. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made to the Humane Society and the VVA Chapter #528 in his name.



**JAMES J. "Jim" LOMOGLIO** – Died Monday, August 30, 2021 in The Villages, Florida at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. Jim was born in Rochester, New York to the late Mike and Mary Lomoglio. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Katherine Lomoglio; children, James Lomoglio (Stephanie), Chadd Lomoglio (Monica), and Amy Carroll (Lomoglio); 11 grandchildren; sibling, Michael Lomoglio, nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless loving friends. He is predeceased by his parents, Mike and Mary, sister Marian Brone, and brother Samuel Lomoglio. Jim is a proud Vietnam Veteran and forever a United States Marine. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Oxford Chapter #1036**. Most important to Jim was his beloved wife, children, grandchildren, family, and his dear friends. In his spare time, he enjoyed being a sportsman, shooting trap and crazy quail, competitive archery, and rooting for the NY Yankees. His Funeral Mass was celebrated on September 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM located at Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 5323 East County Road 462, Wildwood, FL 34785. The family requested no flowers, but to send donations to care of wounded Marines. 3/11 Marines Foundation c/o Sara Kliewer, 14126 Buff Manor Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78216.



**RALPH CLAYTON LOURIA** - Died Tuesday, June 22, 2021 in Cheboygan, Michigan at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on August 7, 1944. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Cheboygan Chapter #274**. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM at Saint Joseph, 353 Elm Street, Wyandotte, MI. The arrangements were entrusted to Nelson Funeral Home and Cremation Service, PO Box 1548, Gaylord, MI



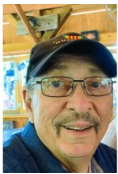
- **LEONARD N. "Len" "Lenny" MACK, JR.** – Died Friday, September 24, 2021 in Watertown, South Dakota at the age of 71. The cause of death was chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He was born in Kranzburg, South Dakota on November 25, 1949 to the late Leonard N. Mack Sr. and Irene (née Kaiser) Mack. He grew up in the Kranzburg area and went to high school in Waverly, graduating in 1968. Joined the United States Navy in High School and then was honorably discharged August 1970. He worked at the John Deere dealerships in Clark and Watertown for a total of 42 years before retiring. He married to Leocadia "Katie" Gronke Haider Mack in 1975 and raised two wonderful daughters; Lynnelle (Haider) Schramm married to Stewart Schramm of Harrisburg and Michelle Mack Ally of Minneapolis. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Connie Kuhn, brother Charlie Mack, brothers-in-law Bill Jawar, Roman Chmura and Jerome Kuhn, and sister-in-law Linda Mack. He is survived by his wife, daughters, four grandsons, Braeden & Carson Schramm and Mack & Myles Ally, siblings Carol (Bob) Larrington, Jerry Mack, Judee Chmura, Rhonda Engels, Todd (Anne) Mack, many special in-laws, nieces and nephews, and wonderful friends. He was a proud *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Watertown Chapter #1054** and the Watertown VFW Post #750. He could often be found shaking dice at the VFW with a whiskey water in his hand and a shit eating grin on his face. Thank you to everyone for supporting Len over the years with a special thanks to his VA Medical team and the staff at Prairie Lakes Hospice. Memorial services were at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at the Holy Name of Jesus Church in Watertown with Reverend Father John Fischer as celebrant. Brad Heesch was the song leader accompanied by Jane Rokusek. Visitation was from 5:00-7:00 PM on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Wight and Comes Funeral Chapel in Watertown. The inurnment was at Mount Hope Cemetery, Watertown, SD. The military honors were conducted by the Northeast South Dakota Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1054 and Frank H. Adams Post #750 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The family requested memorials be given In Memory of Lenny to Prairie Lake Hospice, 401 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Watertown, SD 57201. The arrangements were made by the Wight & Comes Funeral Chapel, [www.wightandcomes.com](http://www.wightandcomes.com).



**PETER J. MANOLIO** – Died Sunday, October 17, 2021 in Staten Island, New York at the age of 80. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 27, 1941. He served in the United States Army. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Brooklyn Chapter #72**.



**JOEL WAYNE "Dobie" McDUFFIE** - Died Monday, September 6, 2021 at the Dorminy Medical Center in Fitzgerald, Georgia at the age of 73. He was a resident of Ocilla, Georgia. The cause of death is unknown. Mr. McDuffie was born on September 16, 1947 in Macon, Georgia to the late Emmett and Leno McDuffie. A graduate from Wilcox County High School, Mr. McDuffie was retired from Eaton Aeroquip. Mr. McDuffie served honorably in the United States Army, during the Vietnam era. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Fitzgerald Chapter #1082**. He was an avid fisherman and hunter who also enjoyed gardening, giving away vegetables every year. He loved to fry fish for his family and friends and was most proud of being a Grandpa to his "bug." As a long-time member of the Fitzgerald Church of God, Mr. McDuffie was an usher and enjoyed working on the grounds at the church. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Teresa (née Griffin McDuffie; his son Wayne (April) McDuffie; a granddaughter Cali McDuffie, all of Fitzgerald; a sister, Evon (Julian) Floyd of Pearson; a brother-in law, Don Griffin and a sister-in law, Gerelle Owens. Several nieces and nephews also survive. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three siblings: Franklin McDuffie, Lucia Owens and Christine James. Funeral services were held on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM at The Paulk Funeral Home Chapel in Fitzgerald with the Reverend Dewain Joiner officiating. The interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery in Fitzgerald, Georgia. The family received visitors one hour prior to the services at the funeral home. The family asked that no one attend if they have had COVID-19 during the past 14 days, been exposed, or been sick.



**GARY FRANK MONELL** – Died Tuesday, August 24, 2021 in Fairmont, West Virginia at the age of 73, surrounded by his wife and daughters. The cause of death is unknown. He was born to the late Frank and Maryon Monell. Gary graduated from East Fairmont High School in 1965 then joined the United States Army on the buddy plan. He served in the Vietnam War before being stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska for two years. He was a city firefighter for 15 years and helped run the family business Frankies Supper Club all his life. Gary loved the outdoors. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, and riding his four-wheeler to visit his neighbors or deliver canned goods and homemade sausage. He spoiled his grandchildren and never passed up an opportunity to spend more time with them. Gary also enjoyed riding his Harley and taking road trips with his wife. He was a member of several organizations, such as Disabled American Veterans, VFW, Knights of Columbus, Mobile Riverine Force Association, and a *Life Member* of

**Vietnam Veterans of America – Fairmont Chapter #874.** Gary is survived by his wife of 55 years, Catherine (Kitty) Monell; three daughters, Alicia Morgan (Tom), Anna Marie Marion (Cole), and Frankie Jo Monell (Frank Toddre), as well as grandchildren, Brittany Leedom (Jeremy), Alyssa Marion, Brock Marion, Ayden Anthony Toddre, and Kai Joseph Toddre; one great granddaughter, Lucy Jo Leedom; and his furry best friend, Jenny Lee. He leaves behind his close friends, Karen and Dick Hall, Corina and Mike Bowling, and Jackie Beatty. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Maryon Monell, and several sister and brothers -in-law, Jenny and Clark Kisner, Mary Jo and John Fargo, Robert Saltem, Loretta Perkins, Edith Cowger, Robert and Norma Perkins; and close friends, Lil Kester and Bob Beatty. A huge thank you to Amedisys Hospice, Nurses Corina, Courtney, Annie, and Mark, Aide Angie, Dave at Freedom Home Medical, Sister Stella for being by our side with guidance and strength, VA Doctor Maureen Maseda-Lacaria and VA Nurse Marie Fazzini. The family received friends at Domico Funeral Home, 414 Gaston Avenue, Fairmont, WV, on Sunday, August 29, 2021 from 1:00 until 8:00 PM. The Catholic Funeral Liturgy was held on Monday, August 30, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Reverend Father Jojan Joseph as Celebrant. The interment was in the West Virginia National Cemetery in Grafton with full military rites. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.domicofh.com](http://www.domicofh.com).



**THOMAS FLOYD "Tom" MONTEZ** - Died Friday, July 30, 2021 in Ogden, Utah at the age of 71. The cause of death of congestive heart failure. Tom was born on June 6, 1950 at home in Bingham Canyon, UT to the late Joe Montez and Josephine (née Lopez) Montez. In 1972 Tom married Gloria and have been together for 50 years, married 49 and will now dance together in Heaven for all eternity! Tom was preceded in death with his loving wife, Gloria. Tom is survived by his two daughters, Ranae (Jerry) Prieto and Heather (Manuel) Lopez and his beloved Pug, Sammy. He had seven grandchildren: Valerie, Vincent, Daniel, Ashley, Teresa, Angelisa and Dominique. He also had sixteen great-grandchildren with one on the way; and surviving siblings, two sisters and one brother. He was preceded in death by his mother, three brothers and two sisters. He lived in Sunny Side, UT until the age of 10 when they moved to Ogden, UT for the remainder of his life. He Joined the United States Army in 1967 at the age of 17, he went to Vietnam serving with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles", in January 1969. Tom made Sergeant (E-5) then made Staff Sergeant (E-6), by July he had received two purple hearts, a bronze star, a Combat Infantry Badge, and seven campaign stars. He went back for a second tour in January 1970 serving as weapons instructor for the Screaming Eagles. He was honorably discharged at the age of 20. Tom worked helping Veterans most if his life with VFW, DAV, VVA, MOPH and American Legion. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Clearfield Chapter #1079**. He was a brave courageous man who was a devote Catholic. He loved quoting scripture to everyone and testing the knowledge of every religious belief. He loved spending time with family smoking joints, going fishing, and camping no matter when or where the occasion was. Tom also loved playing his harmonica for family so they could enjoy the tunes. He was ALWAYS the first to arrive and last one to leave. He will be remembered for his "terrible" grandpa



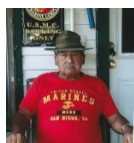
jokes, his dancing, and his intelligence on everything; he spoke with kind words and had a big heart. He loved to tell stories and he loved to share about his Vietnam days. He was an entrepreneur who started his own paralegal company after serving his time at Hill Air Force Base and retired in the year 1996. He will be missed. We love you Papa Bear. Funeral Mass was held on Friday, August 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 514 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden. Friends visited with family on Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 PM with a Rosary at 7:00 PM at the Lindquist's Ogden Mortuary, 3408 Washington Boulevard. The interment was in the Lindquist's Washington Heights Memorial Park, 4500 Washington Boulevard, where military honors were accorded.



**JAMES I. "Jim" MOORE, JR.** - Died peacefully Thursday, August 26, 2021 at his home in Perkasio, Pennsylvania at the age of 75, with his family by his side. The cause of death is unknown. He born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 15, 1946 to the late James I. Moore, Sr. and Florence (née McSorley) Moore. He was the beloved husband of Grace M. (née Lilleg) Moore for the past 29 years. In addition to his beloved wife Grace, Jim is survived by his children, Jason P. Moore and his wife Jen, Alecia Moore Hart and her husband Carey; stepchildren, Elizabeth Coughlin and her husband Steven, John D. Tymkiw and his wife Trish; six outstanding grandchildren, Ryan, Emily, Madelyn, JT, Willow and Jameson. He is also survived by a brother, George Moore and his wife Carol; two sisters, Iris Garison and her husband Gary, and Florence Moore. Jim attended Father Judge High School, Ft. Lauderdale High School, and Brown College Prep. He was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force, serving as a weapons load crew chief with service in Thailand and Vietnam. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal. Jim had a varied career as a corporate pilot, an insurance and investment professional and a music manager. He attended Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia and Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, OK. Jim helped to form and was a *Life Member* of the **Vietnam Veterans of America – Doylestown Chapter #210** and served as Vice-President. He was also a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Jim's professional career was only surpassed by his love of family. He took pride in the accomplishments of his children, stepchildren and grandchildren. He wrote poetry, was a songwriter, musician, storyteller and animal lover. He was an outgoing human being with a heart of gold and a warm and welcoming smile. He was always at the ready for a conversation that would lead in to a story that would make everyone his friend. He enjoyed traveling, both in the USA and abroad, and covered many miles with his wife and friends on a motorcycle. The Moore family received condolences on Tuesday evening, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 until 8:00 PM at the Joseph A. Fluehr III Funeral Home, 241 East Butler Avenue (at Sandy Ridge Road) New Britain, PA 18901 and on Wednesday morning, September 15<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church, 100 Broad Street in Hilltown, PA from 10:00 AM until the start of his Funeral Mass at 11:00 AM. The interment, with military honors, followed at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, PA. Contributions

in his memory may be made to Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 Saint Jude Place in Memphis, TN 38105, or to Bucks County SPCA, PO Box 277 in Lahaska, PA 18931.

**ALBERT JEROME NEWMAN** – Died Friday, August 27, 2021 in Cheboygan, Michigan at the age of 71. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on February 14, 1950. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Cheboygan Chapter #274**.



**JIMMY R. OCHOA** – Died Friday September 3, 2021 in El Campo, Texas at the age of 73. The cause of death was the coronavirus COVID-19. He was born on March 18, 1948 in Ganado, Texas to the late Ysidro and Josephine Ochoa. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Elsie Ochoa; his daughters, Cheryl Ochoa-Olivarez and husband Jorge Olivarez, Jaimie Ochoa-Padilla and husband Ryan Padilla, Amanda Ochoa-Espinosa and husband Augustine Espinosa; his son, Jimmy Ysidro Ochoa and wife Erica Ochoa; brothers, Blas Ochoa, Richard Ochoa; sisters, Coni Ochoa, Anastasia Garcia Julie Rodriguez and Debbie Torrez. Grandchildren; Adrian Jauregui, Isiah Villarreal, Aaron Espinosa, Dominique Tupin, Nicholas Espinosa, Jonathan Espinosa, Matthew Ochoa, Anthony Ochoa, Amber Garza, Randy Solis, John Ochoa, Skylynn Ochoa, Jesse Ochoa, Mercedes Medina and 15 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents Ysidro and Josephine Ochoa and son Matthew Ochoa. Jimmy served in the United States Marine Corps for 4 years. He fought in the Vietnam War with multiple tours, where he was awarded 2 Purple Hearts and the day before his passing he was finally awarded his 3<sup>rd</sup> Purple Heart. He also served in the National Guard as a tank commander. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – El Campo Chapter #1069**. Upon his time served he worked at Dow Chemical Plant in Freeport and there he retired. He worked at Alamo Concrete for a few years and then decided to settle down and enjoy his retirement. He loved to travel, dance, listen to music, spend time with his family, friends, and his dog Khali, and of course he loved his Bud Light. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He is one of a kind and will truly be missed by all. Jimmy always had a smile on his face and would help anyone out. May our hero finally rest in peace. Visitation began at 4:00 PM on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wheeler Funeral Home with the rosary being recited at 6:00 PM. The Funeral Mass was at 9:00 AM at Saint Robert Catholic Church on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. The burial was in the Assumption Cemetery in Ganado at 2:00 PM. Serving as pallbearers were Adrian Jauregui, Isiah Villarreal, Matthew Ochoa, Rodney Solis, Luis Garcia and Aaron Espinosa.



**DANIEL J. "Dan" O'LEARY** - Died Sunday, September 26, 2021 at his home in Jackson, New Jersey at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in West Orange, New

Jersey on June 8, 1942 to the late Daniel and Ruth O'Leary. He was a permanent fixture in the West Orange community and a devoted family man with a great sense of humor and a generous heart. He was a lifelong resident of West Orange until he retired in 2006, Dan was part of a long line of West Orange natives. A lineage long enough that his great-grandfather delivered milk to Thomas Edison. Graduating from West Orange High School in 1961, he began work for PSEG, before he was drafted by the United States Army to the Vietnam War in 1964, where he served his country proudly. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Allenhurst Chapter #12**. Once he returned, he resumed his life's work as a chief lineman for PSEG, where he worked for the next 38 years. He married the love of his life, Margaret, and they lived happily together until her untimely death in 2004. During that time, he and Margaret raised three sons, Timothy, Christopher and Michael. As Dan would say, there was never a dull moment or day in that household that wasn't an adventure. He got accustomed to dealing with the neighbors, who were usually in line when he got home from work to discuss something interesting one of the boys had done. Dan was a permanent fixture in the West Orange community with a great sense of humor; a huge and generous heart, a consummate story teller; and a major jokester. Dan made everyone feel like they were family. He was as much a guy's guy, who thrived on the banter of his PSEG buddies, as he was a sensitive and kind man. In fact, he carried bones in his pocket for the stray dogs that he would come across while working; and was known to rescue at least a few abandoned kittens during his tenure. He loved striking up a conversation with just about anyone, and he treated everyone with respect and love. In his retirement, he devoted much of his time to the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and Museum where he was a tour guide for children, adults and veterans alike. He loved every minute of being there and basked in the deep friendships he shared with his fellow veterans. Dan was a true New Jerseyan. He loved the beach, especially Manasquan, where he spent many childhood summers and then later on in Long Beach Island with his family. He loved the summer; he loved the Yankees; he loved collecting everything - especially Waterford crystal, impression glass and glass insulators; he loved his family and friends very deeply and was proud of his Irish roots. He was loyal, compassionate, rock steady, creative, and a problem solver, always wanting to help anyone, in whatever way he could. He worked hard and loved his life. By far, what he loved most were his grandchildren- Matthew, Lauren, Kate, Olivia and Maddie. A devoted grandpa and poppy- he never missed a softball or a soccer game. He was their biggest and most loyal fan. His face lit up when he was with them or talked about them. He spent his final day on the softball field and then watching the Yankees beat the Red Sox; a game that included a grand slam. A perfect day indeed. Dan was predeceased by his wife Margaret, his son Timothy, his parents Daniel and Ruth, his sister Beth, his brother Brendan, and his nephew Joey. He is survived by his sons, Chris and Mike, daughter in laws, Jill O'Leary and Jamie Bussel; his sister Patricia, his grandchildren, nieces and nephew and an infinite number of friends. Visitation was held on Thursday, September 30, 2021 from 4:00-8:00 PM at the Quinn-Hopping Funeral Home, Livingston, NJ. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, West Orange. The interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover. In recognition of the huge role that the Vietnam Memorial played in his life, donations can be made in his honor to the NJ Vietnam Memorial ([njvvmf.org](http://njvvmf.org)). Quinn-Hopping Funeral Home 145 E. Mount Pleasant Ave. Livingston, NJ 07039.

**DONALD K. OLIN** – Died Tuesday, March 9, 2021 in Kingman, Arizona at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 12, 1947. He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Kingman Chapter #975**.



**RICHARD DANIEL “Rick” PARKINSON** - (Rick) of Ennis, TX Died Monday, August 2, 2021 in his home in Ennis, Texas at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. Rick was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on June 24, 1946 the youngest of three children to the late John David Parkinson, Jr. and Jean May (née Montoney) Parkinson. In 1950 the family moved to Manville, NJ, and in 1956 to Bridgewater (Finderne). Rick graduated from BRHS West and was drafted into the United States Army where he served with the 360<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company in Vietnam. It was there he developed friendships which continued throughout his life. He was instrumental in advocating and giving guidance to his fellow veterans seeking well-deserved VA benefits which mostly proved successful. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Mesquite Chapter #137**. For several years he organized an annual reunion in various cities of the US for members of his company, the last one being in 2019 in his beloved Finderne. These reunions were attended by those from California, Alaska, New York, Maine, Illinois and Arizona among other locations. Rick worked for Research-Cottrell in Bridgewater, Johnson and Johnson in Skillman and Mary Kay Cosmetics in Dallas, TX before starting his own business Superior Septic Systems in Ennis. In December of 1971 he married Mary Lou Izzo and they were parents of Desiree Patten (Chris) and Richard Reed Parkinson. Mary and their children survive him, along with four grandchildren, Danielle, Jonathon, Stephen and Joseph, all of Texas. He is also survived by his sister, Sandra Rodman (Bob) of Clinton Township, and brother John D. Parkinson III (Suzi) of Vacaville, CA as well as nieces and nephews. Rick was a people person known for his sense of humor and storytelling. As a result, he left behind many friends here in New Jersey who are mourning his loss. Rick's cremains were interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA in the summer of 2022. A memorial gathering is being planned in the near future in Bridgewater. For information contact srodman1@hotmail.com.

**THOMAS R. “Tom” PASCOE** - Died Wednesday, February 10, 2021 in Mishawaka, Indiana at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. Tom was born on July 1, 1944 in Highland Park, Michigan to the late Richard and Patricia (née McCarthy) Pascoe. He grew up in Livonia, Michigan. Tom served his country in the United States Navy from 1963- 1967. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – South Bend Chapter #1027**. During his life he lived in Michigan, California and Indiana. Over the years, he was employed as a truck driver. Tom is survived by a son, Phillip Pascoe. He was preceded in death by a son, Kennon Pascoe. Following his wishes, there were no public services. Arrangements were under the care of the Goethals and Wells Funeral Home, Mishawaka.



**TROY LEE “Pop Pop” POPE** - Died Saturday, August 15, 2020 in McKinney, Texas at the age of 76. The cause of death mesothelioma. He was born on December 24, 1943 in Healdton, Oklahoma to the late Elmer Lee Pope and Jaunice Imogene (née Daniel) Pope. Troy married Laurine June McLaughlin on May 9, 1975 in Durant, Oklahoma. He was a Blue Water Vietnam Navy Veteran, worked in the oil and gas industry and was a beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was an avid NASCAR fan, Harley Davidson motorcycle enthusiast and a member of Alcoholics Anonymous for the last 33 years. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – McKinney Chapter #1122**. Troy is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, June Pope of McKinney, Texas; daughters, Angela Heuer and husband, Chuck of Whitehall, Michigan, Jeanna Morgan and husband, Pat of Cypress, Texas, Cyndi Quian and husband, Hector of Cypress, Texas, Melissa Smith and fiancé, James Dunbar of Addison, Texas, Susan McCartney of McKinney, Texas, and Stephanie Groce and husband, Stephen of Van Alstyne, Texas; sons, David Pope of McKinney, Texas, and Todd Schults and wife, Angela of Tonganoxie, Kansas; sister, Susie Welborn and husband, Larry of Georgetown, Texas; grandchildren, Leslie, Lindsey, Ryan, Lauren, Christopher, Paige, Jillian, Emily, Brandon, Stephen, Matthew, Blakely, Tanner, Claire, Robby, and Hannah; 16 great-grandchildren; and a host of other loving family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Elemer and Jaunice Pope and brother, Davey Pope. A come-and-go visitation was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 from 4:00 until 6:00 PM at the Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home, 2525 Central Expressway North, Allen, Texas. Please note, only a limited number of guests will be allowed to enter the funeral home facility at a time to maintain social distancing. A graveside service, with Navy Military Honors, officiated by Reverend Terry Maze, was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 10:30 AM at the Wilson Chapel Cemetery, 100 Chapel Lane, Lowry Crossing, Texas.



**GERALD L. “Gary” “Jerry” PORTER** - Died peacefully Saturday, September 18, 2021 at UnityPoint Health-Trinity in Rock Island, Illinois at the age of 77. He was a resident of Rock Island. The cause of death was pneumonia complicated by the coronavirus COVID-19. Gerald was born on July 25, 1944 in Rock Island to the late James Porter and Gladys (née McCorkle) Mohn. He graduated from Rock Island High School in 1963 and proudly served his country in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He then married Eva “Punkin” Porter on July 24, 1965 in Davenport. She preceded him in death on August 28, 2021. Gerald retired from Alcoa after working 41 years. He was a devoted *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Moline Chapter #669** and the Mexican-American Veterans Association. Gerald was also a member of the United Steelworkers and the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR). He was an avid Chicago Cubs and Bears fan and enjoyed going to car shows and working outdoors. Above all, Gerald was known for offering a helping hand to anyone in need. Those left to cherish Gerald’s memory include his daughter, Cinnamon (Patrick) Moore, Coal Valley; son, Troy Porter, Rock



Island; sisters, Jaqueline McGuire and Susan DePaepe; brother, Charles (Donna) Porter; several nieces and nephews; and grand dog, Vegas "The Boo." Gerald was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years; parents; and brother, Donald Porter. Funeral services were at 10:00 AM on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at the Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home and Crematory, 3030 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island. Visitation was from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday, September 24, 2021 at the funeral home. The burial with military honors was in Saint Mary's Cemetery, East Moline. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #669 or the Mexican-American Veterans Association (M.A.V.A.).



**PATRICK T. "Pat" RAINEY** - Died Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at the Haven Hospice of Orange Park, Florida at the age of 73. He was a resident of Middleburg, Florida. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer. He was born on January 15, 1948 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to the late W. T. and Marcella Rainey. He graduated 1963 from Mauriceville School in Mauriceville, Texas. Patrick grew up and lived in Texas with his mother, father and brother, the late Gerald Michael. As a young man, he worked drilling water wells before going in to the United States Navy at the age of 19. He was employed in Prop mechanics in the Vietnam war and served an honorable term (1/68-12/68 Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam). Once returning to the United States he was stationed at NAS Jax in Jacksonville, Florida doing aircraft mechanics. He retired after 38 years, 10 months, and 12 days combined with the United States Navy and Civil service. Patrick lived an active life in many ways. His wife Kathryn and him enjoyed attending and being a part of their Motorcycle club (Wingnutts FL1-X) and traveling many places and making new friends with them. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Middleburg Chapter #1059**. They are members of Saint Luke Catholic Church. He loved to be outside fixing things, gardening, and watched his garden, animals and children grow. Taking care of his family was top priority in everything he did. He was a loving father to three. Patrick Douglas Rainey (Diana), James Brian Rainey, and Melissa Marie Correia (Glen), and a grandfather to six Katelyn Renee Rainey, Ethan Patrick Russell Rainey, Braden Marc Correia, Aubrey Marie Correia, Kayden Gage Rainey, and Kaylee Ann Marie Rainey, and uncle to many nieces and nephews and a loyal friend to many. Pat was cared for in his final months by his wife, daughter, and granddaughter Katelyn. He will be truly missed by many and will live on in our hearts and memories forever. A visitation was held on Monday, September 13, 2021 from 6:00 until 8:00 PM at the Hardage Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home, 3601 Old Jennings Road, Middleburg, FL. A Celebration of the Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday September 14, 2021 at 10:00 AM at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 1606 Blanding Boulevard, Middleburg FL. The burial with military honors was at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, 4083 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, FL at 2:00 PM. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.hollyhillfunerals.com](http://www.hollyhillfunerals.com) for the Rainey family.



**JAMES W. RAUH** - Died Sunday, August 15, 2021 at home in Howell, New Jersey at the age of 70. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey on September 16, 1950 to Eileen Rauh and the late Oliver Rauh. He was raised in Edison and had lived in Avenel. After proudly serving in the United States Marine Corps as a Lance Corporal during the Vietnam War, he traveled to New Zealand, Hawaii, California and many other states. He was part owner of William Rauh & Son, Inc. in Elizabeth for over 30 years until retiring in 2009. An active member of Christ Church in Howell, James was also a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Allenhurst Chapter #12**, and had served as treasurer for Rugged Cross Motorcycle Club. His favorite pastime was to go camping with family and friends. He was always there for everyone, and it seemed everyone knew him. If you were lucky enough to know James, you loved him. He was predeceased by his father, Oliver Rauh. James is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Ellen Rauh of Howell; children, Jake Rauh and Hayley Rauh, both of Howell; mother, Eileen Rauh of Lakewood; brother, Bill Rauh of Edison; and many loving extended family members and friends. A memorial gathering was held at the Clayton and McGirr Funeral Home, 100 Elton-Adelphia Road (Route #524), Freehold Township on Sunday, August 22, 2021 from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. Relatives and friends were invited to attend his memorial service at Christ Church, 71 Oak Glen Road, Howell on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 12:30 PM. The burial of his ashes was in Brigadier General William. C. Doyle NJ Veterans Cemetery, 350 Province Line Road, Arnetown. For information, directions or condolence messages to the family, visit [www.claytonfuneralhome.com](http://www.claytonfuneralhome.com).

**LARRY D. READY** – Died Wednesday, September 15, 2021 in Lawton, Oklahoma at the age of 75. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on April 1, 1946. He served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1993 with a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**.



**ALLEN GENE ROEDER** - Died Thursday, September 9, 2021 at Saint Mark's Medical Center in La Grange, Texas at the age of 72. He was a resident of Schulenburg, Texas. The cause of death is unknown. Allen was born on February 9, 1949 in Hallettsville, Texas to the late Oswald and Leona (née Baca) Roeder while his family lived in Saint John just west of the church. The barn is still visible from the back of the cemetery. He was the first of his family born in a hospital. He attended first grade at Saint John School. He often talked about how scary it was to walk through the cemetery to get to school. He graduated from Bishop Forest High School where the principal, Sister Agnes Ann, informed him, "You WILL graduate. We don't want you here anymore." He joined the United States Army shortly after graduation and was sent to Ranger School and Jump School before being sent to Vietnam, where he made and lost many good friends. He was awarded two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart among other commendations. He served from 1969-70. After leaving the Army, he settled in Baytown and owned his own auto mechanic shop.

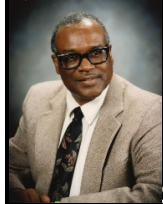
until moving back to Saint John. There, he continued his work as a mechanic, operated bulldozers and other heavy equipment, dug water wells, milked cows to make butter, and used his tractor to make ice cream at church picnics. He built his own cedar log house from start to finish. He cut the trees, milled the logs with his own saw mill, and built the house with the help of his friends. He loved his friends and family, loved his animals and loved his country. On Oct. 16, 2004, he married Diane Barry at Moravia. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Schulenburg Chapter #870**. On Oct. 16, 2004, he married Diane Barry at Moravia. He was a member of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church at Saint John, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and South Texas Wheel Spinners and Crank Twisters Tractor Club. Survivors include his wife, Diane (née Barry) Roeder; three sisters, Virginia Helweg of Shiner, Dorothy Ulrich of Louisiana and Mary Ann Wotipka of Schulenburg; and a brother, Melvin Roeder of Schulenburg. Preceding him in death were his parents, Oswald and Leona (née Baca) Roeder; and a brother, Joe Roeder. Funeral services were held at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Saint John on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM followed by the interment in the Saint John Cemetery. Officiating was Reverend Monsignor John Peters. Pallbearers were Herminio Flores, Gene Ray “Buck” Hoffman, Ryan Wotipka, Ron Callaway, David Berger and Paul Barry. A presentation was made by Ray Urban on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #870 in honor of Allen with a 21-gun salute and “Taps” at the cemetery. Prior to the Mass, rosary was said at the church at 10:30 a.m., led by Edward Kusy. The Schwneke-Baumgarten Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

**ALVIN GLEN ROETTGER** – Died Saturday, September 4, 2021 in Denver, Colorado at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 18, 1946. He is survived by his wife, Wanda. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lakewood Chapter #1071**.



**MARLIN SALTZMAN** (USAF, SMSGT-Ret.) - Died Thursday, October 14, 2021 in Bunkie, Louisiana at the age of 88. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 7, 1932. Marlin retired from the United States Air Force as a SMSGT after 27 years of service. He served during the Korean War and did 4 tours during the Vietnam War, where he was a Bronze Star recipient. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Alexandria Chapter #1131**. He is preceded in death by wife, Jane “Chick” Saltzman; a son, Robert Lewis Saltzman; step-daughter, Karen Gremillion; twin brother, Merlin Ray Saltzman; brothers, Dorrell Saltzman, Denton Saltzman and Milton “Sonny” Saltzman. Survivors include his wife; Maryanne Saltzman of Bunkie; daughter, Sarah S. Macy and husband Terry of Palmdale, CA; step-daughter, Barbara Selby (Scott); grandchildren, Joseph Gimmestad, Jacob Gimmestad, Laurie and Jamie Floyd, Janet and Jason Landry, Corrie Pedersen and Erik Macy; and great-grandson, Logan Gimmestad. Pallbearers include: Terry Macy, Jacob Gimmestad, Jason Landry, Jamie Floyd and David Belgard. Friends visited from 8:00 until 8:45 AM at the Hixson-Ducote Funeral Home of Bunkie. A Mass of Christian Burial for Marlin Saltzman was held at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church with Reverend Father Stephen Chemino, V.G. officiating. The

burial with military honors was in the Saint John the Baptist Cemetery in Moncla. The arrangements were under the direction of the Hixson-Ducote Funeral Home of Bunkie. Online condolences may be sent to [www.hixson-ducote.com](http://www.hixson-ducote.com).



**SAMUEL OLIVER "Sam" SEARS, JR.** (USAF, SMGT-Ret.) - Died Sunday, August 22, 2021 at his residence of Ida Grove, Iowa at the age of 83, after a long but courageous battle with cystic kidney disease. He was born on December 15, 1937 in New York City (Harlem Hospital), New York to the late Samuel Oliver Sears, Sr. and Gladys (née Taylor) Sears. He was baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith at the Resurrection Catholic Church of Harlem, New York. Sam grew up in New York City until the age of 14 and relocated to Norfolk, Virginia, where he lived with relatives. He graduated from Norfolk's Booker T. Washington High School in June of 1955 at the age of 17. In September 1955 he enlisted into the U.S. Air Force. On June 15, 1957, Sam, as he preferred to be called, married Irene Crocker in Norfolk. The couple were blessed with four children: Darrell (who died at childbirth), Avonda, Terence, and Beverly. Sam served 20 years in the United States Air Force as a Public Information Specialist, journalist and magazine/newspaper editor, historian, and photographer; Armed forces radio and television service station manager and Project Blue Book (USAF UFO Project) manager. His career took him to 23 countries and every state in the U.S. except for the New England states. He served in Vietnam in combat news and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. He retired in November of 1975 as a Senior Master Sergeant from Strategic Air Command in Omaha, NE. He returned to Rapid City, South Dakota, where he was stationed twice, and went to work at KOTA-TV as their photo-lab manager, processing film for the news and advertising departments. He also operated cameras for noon and nightly news broadcasts, was a news and advertising photographer, and produced on-site news and community TV specials. When the station transitioned to video tape, he was the sole operator of its new video equipment and trained news personnel after attending a Kodak Film School in Denver. He attended the University of Nebraska in Omaha while in the service and the National College of Business after retirement, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. In May of 1980 Sam moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to become an Army civilian employee and assistant editor of the Fort Carson Mountaineer newspaper. He later became the editor, taking the paper to the best in its class in the Army in 1986 and runner-up in the Department of Defense worldwide. He resigned from his Army position in 1992 and worked in the Colorado Springs Public Affairs Office and media relations supervisor and Public Relations liaison for the fire, gas and electric departments. On July 4, 1981, Sam married Ann (née Lichtenberg) Diekmann in Colorado Springs and with this union, Sam expanded his family by one daughter, Brandi. He also has 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Sam and Ann moved to Arthur, Iowa, in 1995. He retired in 1998 from Green Thumb, Inc., a Des Moines-based corporation that assisted dislocated workers and seniors to prepare for employment. Sam and Ann celebrated 40 years of marriage on July 4, 2021. They both loved to travel, especially to Yuma, Arizona, for the winter. He enjoyed playing cards and games with family and friends,

playing golf and was an avid Denver Broncos fan. He was an active member of McNamara-Moore Post No. 61 of the Ida Grove American Legion. Sam was a life member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Retired Enlisted Association. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Aurelia Chapter #888**. He was a faithful member of the Saint Paul Lutheran Church of Ida Grove and an associate member of the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church of Yuma. He was confirmed in the LCMS Lutheran faith in 1985 in Hawaii. Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 40 years, Ann Sears; sisters Dolores Horton and Iris Moore; son Terence (Winsome) Sears; daughters Avonda (Elmon) Oliver, Beverly (Alex) Yarborough, and bonus daughter Brandi Crawford; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Sam was preceded in death by his parents Gladys and Samuel Sears, Sr.; son Darrell (in infancy); granddaughter DeJon Williams; great-granddaughters Victoria and Faith Williams; and brother Ronald Sears, Sr.



**THOMAS J. “Tom” SHANNAHAN** - Died unexpectedly on Thursday, September 2, 2021 in Lincoln, Rhode Island at the age of 78. The cause of death is unknown. He was the beloved husband of Judith (née Moon) Shannahan. He was born in Central Falls, Rhode Island on October 6, 1942 to the late Thomas E. and Helen (née Seikiera) Shannahan. Tom graduated from Holy Trinity School in 1957 and Central Falls High School in 1960. He attended Johnson and Wales Business School for two years majoring in court reporting. He then entered the United States Air Force in January 1963, and after basic training, was sent to Military Justice School in Newport, RI, from where he graduated with high honors. He proudly served his country as a court stenographer and legal specialist in the Staff Judge Advocate’s office. He was honorably discharged in 1967. Tom earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the American College of Switzerland (1970), where he also coached basketball and was a ski instructor, and in 1990 earned his Master’s Degree in Library Science from the University of Rhode Island. From 1989 to 2004, Tom was Director of the Adams Memorial Library in Central Falls. He was also the founder of the Lysander Flagg Memorial Museum in 1999, located next door to the Library, filling it with history and memorabilia of the city and its residents, including a special section dedicated to its veterans. He also co-chaired the Central Falls Veterans Memorial, in which a monument, dedicated to, and bearing the names of fallen soldiers from Central Falls while serving their country, still sits on the lawn in front of the now shuttered Memorial Museum. He was considered Central Falls’ resident expert on area Civil War History, and brought to light, the famous letter that Major Sullivan Ballou (of RI) penned to his wife, Sarah, on July 14, 1861 before he died after being injured in what was the Civil War’s first major land battle (the Battle of Bull Run). While the director of the Library, he was the keeper of a collection of paintings by Central Falls’ most famous artist, Lorenzo deNevers. (Besides his paintings of Presidents Eisenhower and F.D. Roosevelt, deNevers is said to have used a man sitting in Jenks Park as a model for his painting of Christ, which hangs in the Vatican.) Tom was a William Blackstone Society honoree



(1996) for his promotion of the Blackstone Valley's history and culture. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, Lawrence E Redmond Chapter #3 and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – James Michael Ray Memorial (Woonsocket) Chapter #818**. Tom was a nature lover, enjoying a bike ride on the Blackstone Valley Bike Trail, walks in Lincoln Woods, the Meadow and Chase Farm. But, most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren and many friends. In his younger years, he was an athlete and travelled extensively throughout Europe. Besides his wife, Judy, he is survived by daughter, Rachel (Raymond) Latraverse, son, Brian (Jennifer) Wilson, granddaughter, Leah Milne (Tyler Rossi), grandson, Cooper Wilson, brothers, Robert (Jan), Daniel (Joanne), and Edward (Diane) Shannahan, several nieces, nephews, cousins, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and many close friends. He was the brother of the late Paul Shannahan. Tom was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was a kind and caring person, who would lend a hand whenever needed. He will be forever missed and always remembered. A Mass of Christian Burial, to which family and friends are invited, will be celebrated on Friday, Sept. 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM in St. Jude's Church, 301 Front Street, Lincoln, RI, immediately followed by Military Honors on the Church grounds. In honoring Tom's wishes, visiting hours are respectfully omitted and burial will be private. Memorial gifts in Tom's memory may be made to Saint Jude's Church or to any Veterans organization of your choice.



**GEORGE ANTHONY SHEARER** - Died Thursday, March 4, 2021 at the Embassy of Hillsdale Park, Hillsdale, Pennsylvania at the age of 72. He was a resident of Curwensville, Pennsylvania. The cause of death was dementia. He was Born in Clearfield, Pennsylvania on January 20, 1949 to the late Rose Shearer of Curwensville and George Shearer of Ohio. He served in the United States Army during Vietnam from 1967-1970. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Clearfield Chapter #974**. He loved to fish more than anything. Also, he loved going to the races. He is survived by a sister, Rosemary Guiher and her husband Jerry of Grampian; a niece, Kimberly Weld; and a great nephew, Trenton Weld. Also, he is survived by his partner of 35 years, Patty Petrone of Curwensville. He is preceded in death by aunts and uncles. There were no services observed. George was laid to rest at the Crown Crest Memorial Park in Hyde, Pennsylvania. The Beardsley Funeral Home and Crematory, Curwensville was in charge of the arrangements.



**JOHN B. "Dutch" SHELDON** – Died Friday, October 1, 2021 in Franklin, Tennessee at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 18, 1947 to the late Byron M. Sheldon and Martha Sheldon Crunk. He is survived by his wife, Pamela (née Pewitt) Sheldon; sons, Kevin (Cori) Sheldon of Palm Harbor, FL and Keith (Summer) Sheldon of Franklin, TN; grandchildren, Alyssa, Tyler and Kaylee Sheldon of Palm Harbor, FL; sisters, Mary Stinson of Old Hickory, TN, Pat (Troy) Brooks of Old Hickory, TN and Becky (Ron) Hopper of Hermitage, TN;

sister in-law, Diane Sheldon of Herndon, VA. He is preceded in death by brothers, Byron S. Sheldon and Rickie Sheldon. Dutch graduated from Goodlettsville High School in 1965 and was a Vietnam War Veteran serving in the United States Air Force. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Franklin Chapter #1140**. Following his service, he worked for NES with the Donelson Center Line Department until his retirement in 2002. A graveside service was held at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 8, 2021 at the Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, 7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1140; 121 Crestfield Place, Franklin, TN 37069. Williamson Memorial Funeral Home and Cremation Services were in charge of the services. [www.williamsonmemorial.com](http://www.williamsonmemorial.com).

**RICHARD D. “Rick” SHULER** - Died peacefully Friday, June 25, 2021 in Kansas City, Kansas at the age of 79, after a brief ill, with his family and his Pastor, Reverend Mark Fischer, by his side. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on April 17, 1942 in Glendale, California to the late Richard and Marian (née Douglas) Shuler. Rick grew up in the San Fernando Valley area and graduated from J.H. Francis Polytechnic Senior High School in Sun Valley, Calif. He enjoyed spending many weeks sailing with his parents in the family sailboat from Long Beach to Catalina and along the California coast. This is where he learned to love the freedom of the sea. He graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in mathematics. This is where he met and married the love of his life in 1964, Martha Kyne. She survives at the home. He is also survived by a son, Bob and wife, Carrie Shuler of Canton, MI; a daughter, Krista and husband, David Hludzinski of Goshen, N.Y; five grandchildren, Jared, Ryan and Lea Hludzinski, and Claudia and Ethan Shuler. He was drafted into the United States Army and commissioned into the Army Corp of Engineers in 1966. His first assignment was Germany where he returned to many times on business and for pleasure. In Vietnam he commanded an asphalt plant and rock quarry Engineer Company. After he retired, he returned to Vietnam with Martha and Bob for a visit. While on active duty he attended George Washington University full time and earned a master’s degree in engineering management. He utilized his master’s as the project officer on the civilian side of the Corp of Engineers in the construction of Buchanan and Hidden dams in California. Among his most memorable assignments was a tour in Korea with his family. He also had the opportunity to command an Engineer Battalion and took his 700 men to Honduras and built a farm to market road and dam as part of a good will nation building project. After retiring with 26 years of service to our country he earned a second master’s in mathematics at the University of Kansas. Both his children were students there along with him and that’s when he became a KU basketball fan and ticket holder for over 30 years. He was also a season Chiefs ticket holder for over 35 years. He worked for 15 years as a civilian military contractor at Ft. Leavenworth. He was a terrain analyst and was known as “Dr. Dirt.” He traveled all over the US, Korea, Japan and Germany on military exercises. When Rick finally retired, he and Martha traveled the world over on land tours and over 20 cruises. He especially enjoyed Asia and the South Pacific. If he wasn’t planning a new adventure or going to his sporting events, he enjoyed reading military and detective novels. Rick was a spiritual man who was very active in his church and community. He served on the Council of St. Martin Lutheran Church, was a member of the Old Bastards and Lions Club and he was on the Hollis Board of Directors. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Kansas City (KS) Chapter #75**. He was a gentle spirit who would strike up a conversation with anybody who was willing to engage. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

A funeral service was held at 10:00 AM on Friday, August 20, 2021 at Saint Martin Lutheran Church, 13849 Hollingsworth Road, Kansas City, KS, with Reverend Mark Fischer and Chaplain Sam Sanford officiating. Memorial contributions were suggested to the Hollis Renewal Center, P.O. Box 402, Bonner Springs, KS 66012, or Saint Martin Lutheran Church.



**TOMMY C. STAFF** - Died Friday, August 20, 2021 in El Campo, Texas at the age of 72. The cause of death was the coronavirus COVID-19. He was born on November 16, 1948 in El Campo to the late Anton and Adela (née Roznovsky) Staff. He was a United States Army Veteran and retired master electrician. He was a lifelong member of Saint Philip Catholic Church, member of the Knights of Columbus #2490 and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – El Campo Chapter #1069**. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Liz (née Vanek) Staff; daughter Brittnei Nanson and husband Weldon; grandchildren Caitlyn, Gage and Kendall Nanson, all of El Campo; brothers Lee Roy Staff, Bob Staff and wife Mary Ann, Albert Staff and wife Pat, all of El Campo, Anton Staff Jr. and wife Barbara Ann, Johnnie Staff and wife Rachel, all of Bay City, Larry Staff and wife Theresa of El Campo, Raymond Staff and wife Rhonda of San Leon, George Staff, and Paul and wife Gay, all of El Campo; sisters Patsy Bubela and husband Frank, and Lillie Weid and husband Johnny, all of El Campo; mother-in-law Elsie Vanek of Ganado, sisters-in-law Dorothy Byrne and husband Andy of Ganado, and Theresa Hermes and husband Frank of Inez. He was preceded in death by his parents, father-in-law William Vanek, son Thomas Staff, brother-in-law Albert Baklik, and sister-in-law Norma Staff. Visitation was from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Triska Funeral Home. A KC Rosary was recited at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at Saint Philip Catholic Church. The Funeral Mass was at 10:00 AM with Reverend Father Chase Goodman officiating. The interment was in the Holy Cross Memorial Park. The pallbearers were Brian Baklik, Donovan Mikesh, Dillon Sparks, Ray Sparks, Chris Staff and Michael Staff. Donations in memory of Tommy Staff were requested for Saint Philip Catholic Church.

**JAMES LEWIS STAMM** - Died Tuesday, September 14, 2021 in Jackson, Michigan at the age 76. He was formerly of Detroit, Dearborn, and Warren, Michigan. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on May 8, 1945 to the late Arthur and Ruth Stamm. He was also predeceased by his brother, Kenneth and sister-in-law Carol, his sister, Ruth Conley, his former wife, Francene Rucinski and his current wife, Duana Dake. He is survived by his sisters Mary Dinneweth (Edward) and Patricia Wells (Ronald) and former wife Marie Knoche; and his children Billy, Sean (Holly), Scott (Amy), Cortney (John Blansett III), Caitlin Ivone (Christian); and stepchildren Brandi Dake Reniger and Jodi Dake Sprunger; and grandchildren Zachary, Arianna, and Michaelann Stephenson, Francene, Trevor, Haley and Lilly Williard, Mackenzie Greenshields, Mya Miller, Amelia, and John Calvin Blansett IV; grandchildren Brittanie Vanorder, Harlie, Courtney, and Trevor Coppernoll, and Dustin Dake. He was a great-grandfather of eight. He was an Uncle to a large extended family. He was a proud member of the United States Air Force where he was a helicopter mechanic in Vietnam. He was an active *Life Member* of his local chapter of the **Vietnam Veterans of America – Jackson Chapter #109**. He enjoyed motorcycles and flying RC planes and helicopters. A Celebration of Life was held at a later date.



**WYNN STARR** - Died Friday, August 13, 2021 in Shippingport, Pennsylvania at the age of 74. He was formerly of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 13, 1946 in Rochester, Pennsylvania to the late Willis B. and Gertrud A. (née Green) Starr. After graduating Rochester High School in 1964, where he played football and was on the track team, Wynn Joined the United States Marine Corps in June of 1964 and served two tours in Vietnam with MAG-36 Helicopters. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Freedom Chapter #862**. After the Marines, Wynn worked for NOVA Chemical and also did his own tile work. After retirement he worked for The Parking Spot as a bus driver for 14 years. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Billie L. (née Carpenter) Starr; a daughter, Jennifer (Rob) Henderson; a stepson, Sean Ray; five grandchildren, Nick, Noah, Olivia Henderson, Amber (Jake Boyd) Hill, and Tyler Ray. He is also survived by his brother, Ken (Sandy) Starr; nephew, Nathan (Sara) Starr, and special cousin, Judy Timko. He was preceded in death by his parents and a stepdaughter, Niki Ray Hill. A memorial gathering was held on Friday August 27, 2021 from 1:00-3: PM, at the Rochester VFW, 179 Virginia Avenue, Rochester, PA. The family would like to thank the Allegheny Health Network Hospice, Brian, Mike and Karen, for the care given to Wynn. The arrangements by the Huntsman Funeral Home and Cremations Services, Inc. of Rochester.



**MICHELLE JANE STORK** – Died Thursday, January 21, 2021 in Defiance, Ohio at the age of 70. The cause of death was a heart attack. Michelle was born in Stoneham, Massachusetts on February 28, 1950 to the late Ethel Frances McPartlin and John Duncan Brennan. She was a United States Marine, and after her service she became a nurse. Michelle enjoyed traveling, and she loved her family dearly. She was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Defiance Chapter #954**. It is with a heavy heart that we announce the sudden passing of our loving mother, wife, sibling, and grandma. Michelle was reunited with the love of her life, Larry Stork who departed seven years prior. Michelle is survived by her family; Shawn (Michelle), Decca (Ritchie), Kathy (Ernie), Steve (Cassandra), and three step-children, as well as her grandkids which include Jakob, Hailee, KC, Mercedes, Amber, Gavin, and Griffin, and 15 additional grandkids. She has seven siblings; Vicky, Jack, Larry, Janice, Jill, J. Patrick, and Jeanine. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Larry D. Stork. A Memorial Gathering to celebrate Michelle's life was held at Defiance VFW Hall, 201 Clinton Street from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. A Graveside Service at Riverview Memory Gardens was at 2:00 PM with military graveside rites accorded by VFW #3360. The Schaffer Funeral Home was honored to assist the family with the arrangements. Memorials were suggested to the Defiance County DAV. Online condolences can be given at [www.Schafferfh.com](http://www.Schafferfh.com).



**JEROLD J. "Jerry" STOUFFER** - Died Saturday, September 18, 2021 at his home in Gillette, Wyoming at the age of 84, surrounded by his family and loved ones after a yearlong battle with cancer. Jerry was born in Gordon, Nebraska on April 25, 1937 to the late LeRoy and Mildred (née Frohman) Stouffer and was raised and educated in Gordon, NE until he enlisted in the United States Army. On November 26, 1966 he married Annette "Ann" Marie Lawrence in Sparta, WI. To this union three children, Lori Ann, Janel Marie, and Scott Allen were born. Jerry and Ann were married for 37 years when she passed in 2004 from cancer. Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in both Korea and Vietnam. He was an active member of the American Legion, Post #42 of Gillette WY, lifetime member of the VFW Post #7756 and a member of Eagles Aerie No. 2711. Jerry held many offices in the American Legion including Commander, Vice Commanders, Adjutant and on the Executive Board. Being a motorcycle enthusiast, he was a member of the Windriders for Post #42. He proudly served on the American Legion Drill team for 30+ plus years. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Gillette Chapter #99**. He lived in Casper WY working for WOTCO, Glenrock, WY where he worked for Highland Uranium until being transferred by Exxon to Gillette, WY where he worked at the Rawhide Coal Mine operating shovels and haul trucks until he retired. He held various other jobs in Gillette including Air Gas and Camplex. Jerry loved his Harley's of which he had many throughout the years. He also was the road captain for several years for the Freedom Ride and many other rides. He met Helen Jerome in May 2013 who became his significant other until he passed. They both loved motorcycle riding taking long trips all over the country visiting family. He was always busy working doing something whether it be woodworking, camping, or tearing something apart in his garage often leaving it tore apart. Loved being outside in the yard and garage. He is survived by daughters Lori Ann (Ronnie) Kline of Casper, WY, Janel Lancaster of Fountain, CO and son Scott Allen (Lisa) of Sheridan, WY. Grandchildren, Tara (Pete) Ferguson, Kimberly (Will) Humble, Brian Abelseth, Angela Stouffer, Amy Lancaster, Chelsea (Aaron) LaBounty and Nolan (Alexis) McIntyre; great-grandchildren, Abby and Kaysn Ferguson, Damion and Wyatt Humble, Ayden Abelseth, Jacob and Mariah Stouffer and Bridget Bauer, Star, Riley, Candice and Isabelle LaBounty. Significant Other Helen Jerome and a very large extended family. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Joann (Stouffer) Jamison, infant brother, Bobby Leroy and wife Annette. A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 11:00 AM at the American Legion, 200 Rockpile, Gillette, WY. In lieu of flowers a donation to the American Legion Drill Team of Post #42, Gillette, WY. Memorials and condolences may be sent in care of Gillette Memorial Chapel, 210 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be expressed at [www.gillettememorialchapel.com](http://www.gillettememorialchapel.com).



**EARL BLAKE STRANG, JR.** - Died Thursday, August 5, 2021 in Morgantown, West Virginia at the age of 74, with his family by his side. The cause of death is unknown. He was born



in Sleepy Hollow off Grafton Road on the old Shaffer place in Morgantown on September 5, 1946 to the late Earl B. Strang, Sr. and Virginia Edith (née Austin) Strang. Earl and his best friend, Gary Burch, joined the United States Navy together after graduating from Morgantown High School in 1965. They went to boot camp in Great Lakes, Michigan. Earl was stationed in Davisville, Rhode Island as a proud member of the US Navy Seabees. He was in NMCB 7 and spent two tours of duty in Vietnam from 1966-1967 and 1968-1969. Earl was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Morgantown Chapter #306**, Disabled American Veterans in Fairmont, National Seabee Veterans of America Island 3 in Pittsburgh, PA, and VFW Post #548 in Morgantown. Earl worked for University Supply and Pass Inc. He retired from Laboratory Corp. of America in Fairmont. Earl is survived by his wife of 51 years Carol (née Marshall) Strang; son, Jeremy Wade Strang and companion Janet Ann Keaton with whom they made their home after his father became ill. Beautiful and loving granddaughters Madison Lauryl Strang and boyfriend Zachary Polen of Jacksonville, FL and Megan Tayler Strang at home. Also surviving are his brothers-in-law, James Marshall and wife Nancy (Berkshire) of Bruceton Mills; Richard Marshall and wife Dianne (Reeves) of Rising Fawn, GA; Roger Marshall and wife Brenda (Schoonover) of Grafton Road. Surviving sisters-in-law include Sue (Marshall) Chipps of Bruceton Mills; Lisa (Marshall) Austin and husband Dave of Grafton Road. Earl is also survived by his mother-in-law, Wilma Jean (Criss), his faithful four-legged friend, Lucy and his best friends, Gary and Tewana (Anderson) Burch of Grafton Road. In addition to his parents, Earl was preceded in death by his brother Charles Earl Strang, sister Dorothea Lee (Strang) Keener, grandson Gabriel Blake Strang, and maternal grandparents Charles A. Austin and Etta J (Costello) Austin. The family would like to thank UHC/WVU Hospice staff, especially Amy, Trish, and Libby, for all their wonderful care; CBOC in Westover; Louis A. Johnson Veterans Hospital and the Home-Based Primary Care Team; Meghan Leber from Amedisys; his extended family, buddies and wives; and the staff and buddies at the Morgantown Vet Center, where he attended group faithfully on Tuesday evenings until his illness no longer allowed. Friends were received at the Fred Jenkins Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM and from 6:00 – 8:00 PM and again on Thursday from 10:00 AM until time of services at 11:00 AM. Earl would want everyone to wear their favorite t-shirt and jeans if attending. He will be laid to rest at the Halleck Cemetery with military honors conducted by the US Navy and Local Morgantown and Westover VFW Posts #548, #9916 and VVA Chapter #306.



**BENNIE KYLE SWINDALL, SR.** - Died Sunday, August 8, 2021 at his residence in Broadway, Virginia at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on March 4, 1947 in Clintwood, Virginia to the late Joseph Delbert and Italy E. (née McFall) Swindall. Bennie was a truck driver for Kennedy Konstruction for 28 years before retiring. He was a United States Army Veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Timberville and a former member of Clintwood Bible Church. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Harrisonburg Chapter #1061**. On July 5, 1968, he married the former Linda Carr, who preceded him in death April 15, 1997. Surviving are one daughter, Carmen Taylor and husband, Michael, of Broadway; one son, BJ Swindall and wife, Heather, of Clintwood, Va.; six

grandchildren, Mikayla Taylor Mongold, Madison Taylor, Mitchell Taylor, Matthew Swindall, Mason Swindall and Madelyn Swindall; one great-grandchild, Zander Mongold; two brothers, Charles Edward Swindall of Big Stone Gap, Va., and Roy Blaine Swindall of Clintwood; and three sisters, Pallas Mullins of Clintwood, Matilda Killen of Stafford, Va., and Betty Bryant of Luray.



**RENÉ A. SYLVESTER** - Died unexpectedly Saturday, May 15, 2021 in Ithaca, New York at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. René was born in a Red Cross camp in Denmark on November 7, 1945 to the late Paul and Alfreda Sylvester. His family later moved to France and then traversed the Atlantic Ocean in November on a Red Cross boat to Quebec City. When René was a teenager his family moved to Brooklyn and finally Geneseo, NY. René was preceded in death by his father, Paul, mother, Alfreda and granddaughter, Mira Brouwer. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Melissa Sylvester; his children Yann Luc Sylvester, Anna Sylvester of Ithaca, NY, Paul Sylvester (Jennifer) of Fairfax, VA and Christine Brouwer of Ithaca, NY; his grandchildren, Parker and Emmett Sylvester, Jackson and Korrine Brouwer; his siblings Dori Sawyer and Nicole Sylvester (Gary Hoffman) of Geneseo, NY, Denis Sylvester (Linda) of Bloomfield, NY. As well as many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and cousins in Montreal, France and Austria. René was proud of his service in the United States Air Force and as a Vietnam Veteran. He grieved for those that were taken too soon and was grateful for the connections he had and made with fellow Veterans. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Dryden Chapter #377**. Professionally, René worked as a Psychologist in Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers and then as a School Psychologist at TST BOCES and the Ithaca City School District. René had a love for books, airplanes, cars, motorcycles, craft beers and most importantly, people. René connected with people everywhere he went and made many cherished friendships through groups of interest as well as just walking down the street. He had an insatiable love of life and sense of humor that filled a room. He will be so missed by all who loved him. Carpe Diem. There were calling hours on Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Bangs Funeral Home, 209 West Green Street, Ithaca, NY and a memorial service on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 1:00 PM at the Perkins Funeral Home Chapel, 55 Main Street, Dryden, NY. Social Distancing and Mask guidelines were followed. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation on behalf of Yann Sylvester who will be attending college in the Fall. Contributions can be made via: [ugift529.com](https://ugift529.com) with code E93-91P as an electronic payment or mail in check. Online condolences at [Bangsfuneralhome.com](https://Bangsfuneralhome.com).



**RICHARD EDWIN "Rich" TAUER** – Died Thursday, September 9, 2021 in Saint Augustine, Florida at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Hanska, Minnesota on October 14, 1947 to the late Adella and Raymond Tauer. Richard was a graduate of Saint Mary's High School in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota in the spring of 1965. He was a medic in the United States Army based in Chu Lai, Vietnam of which he was very proud. Richard met his future wife Kathleen, and they were married in June 1971. He was blessed with a son, Adrian in June 1975. He loved

working with veterans and belonged to multiple organizations including being a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Saint Augustine Chapter #1084** and a *Life Member* of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Sun City (Arizona) Chapter #1043**. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, motorcycling, and RV'ing. Richard is survived by his wife Kathleen, son Adrian, daughter-in-law Michelle, two grandchildren; Ashley and Alexander, along with brothers and sisters; Marie, Thomas, Dennis, Cletus, Maryls, Marlin, Eileen, Douglas, Diane, Monica, Patrick, Wayne, and Gary. He had numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and grand nieces, nephews. He was a natural at making friends including John, Mac, and Jody. We would like to thank all of the staff at Baptist Health South who were so compassionate and caring this last month he was with us. In honor of Richard's wishes, there were no services. Arrangements were in the care of Saint Johns Family Funeral Home and Crematory of Saint Augustine, Florida.



**ARTHUR RUSSELL "Rusty" "Russ" TRACY, JR.** - Died Saturday, November 21, 2020 at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee at the age of 73, following a lengthy illness. He was a resident of Franklin, Kentucky. The cause of death was anoxic brain injury due to lack of oxygen due to heart failure. He also had Stage 4 lung cancer and many other cancers (melanoma, sebaceous cells, etc.) and Diabetes Mellitus-Type II. Russ was born on August 29, 1947, in Flint, Michigan to the late Arthur Russell Tracy, Sr. and Sara (née Gossett) Tracy. He was also preceded in death by a younger sister, Patricia Lee Tracy. Mr. Tracy volunteered for military service in 1966 and was trained as a United States Navy Corpsman. In 1968 he was assigned to the Marine's 9<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion in Chu Lai, Vietnam and ended his tour of duty at the Marine Induction Center, Parris Island, South Carolina. In 1974, Russ received a B.A. degree in History from Western Kentucky University. He also attended the Medical University of South Carolina, as part of the MEDEX program for veterans. In 2004, Russ retired from the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Asheville, NC, after 32 years of service as a Physician Assistance in Rehab Medicine. After retiring and moving back to Kentucky, Russ became active in the Franklin Vietnam Veterans Association and was on the board of the Simpson County Historical Society. Working primarily with picture restoration, he was also responsible for creating a military records file for Simpson County veterans. Recently he was inducted into the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Black Mountain (North Carolina) Chapter #124**. Rusty attended Franklin Presbyterian Church where he served as an usher and was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church of Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. Tracy is survived by his wife of fifty years, Carolle (née Chaney) Tracy; two children, Jennifer Tracy Macias and spouse, Ricardo of Asheville, NC, and Jonathan Russell Tracy of Franklin, KY.; five grandchildren, Angelina Macias, Tracie Macias, Landon Macias, Luke Tracy and Mark Macias; one great-grandchild, Christopher Macias; sister-in-law, Gayle Chaney; and two nephews, Stephen Mayes and Craig Mayes. A private family service was held on November 24<sup>th</sup> in the chapel of the Gilbert Funeral Home. Friends were invited to attend the graveside service, which was at 12:30 PM at the Greenlawn Cemetery. Both services were under the direction of

the Gilbert Funeral Home, Franklin, KY. Friends were asked to help prevent the spread of Covid19, by saving your hugs for another day, following social distancing guidelines, and wearing masks. The family suggested that expressions of sympathy be made to the Simpson County Historical Society, 206 North College Street, Franklin, Kentucky 42134. Online condolences may be made at [www.gilbertfhonline.com](http://www.gilbertfhonline.com) and the complete obituary may be read on our Facebook page, Gilbert Funeral Home of Franklin, Kentucky.



**OSCAR M. VIDALES, JR.** – Died Thursday, August 26, 2021 in El Paso, Texas at the age of 71. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in El Paso on November 24, 1949. He is survived by his loving *wife*, Gina Vidales; beloved *son*, Oscar Vidales III; *brothers*, Richard Vidales, Ramon Vidales, Alex Vidales; *sisters*, Julieta Sanchez, Elena Duran; along with three *grandchildren*, Israel Vidales, Ethan Vidales and Damian Vidales. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America - El Paso Chapter #574**. Visitation was on Thursday, September 2, 2021 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at the Mount Carmel Funeral Home with the recitation of the Rosary at 6:00 PM. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, September 3, 2021 at 12:00 Noon at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church. The interment was in the Fort Bliss National Cemetery.



**DONALD R. "Don" WALKER** (USA, MW4-Ret.) - Died peacefully Sunday, August 8, 2021 in Killeen, Texas at the age of 82. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Hugo, Oklahoma on May 22, 1939. Don was honorably served his country for 37 years, including serving in the Vietnam War as a gunship pilot flying the UH-1 Huey helicopter before retiring from the United States Army as a Master Warrant Officer 4 in 1994. As a career serviceman, Don received many meritorious medals and awards, to include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Harker Heights Chapter #1000**. After his retirement from the military, Don continued to serve his country as a civilian contractor for another fifteen years until 2009. After retirement, Don spent his time traveling and enjoying life with his wife of fifty years, Myong "Chin" Walker, who survives him in his death. He is also remembered and celebrated by his children, Naomi Walker Byrne and her husband John, and Commander Nathan A. Walker, USN, his wife Miriam and their two daughters, Lillian and Hannah Walker, and other extended family members. An avid bowler and golfer, Don will be remembered as always ready with a smile on his face and laughter in his heart. A wonderful father and husband, he instilled in his family strength in the face of adversity, pride in self, and an unwavering ability to see the sense of humor in everything. He was one of a kind and will be desperately missed by his family and friends. He was interred at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen with full military honors on Friday August

20, 2021 at 11:00 AM. A small, private graveside service was held afterwards. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the New Gate United Methodist Church located at 102 E. Church Ave., Killeen TX 76541.



**NATHANIEL G. "Nate" WASHINGTON** (USA, 1SG-Ret.) – Died Sunday, August 22, 2021 during his hospitalization at the Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on February 28, 1948 to the late Cynthia and Louis Washington, Jr. Nate joined the United States Army in 1968 and served his country with honor and integrity for over 22 years. Nate's military awards include: Meritorious Service Medal w/First Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal-7, Vietnam Service Medal w/Four Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon w/Numeral Three, Overseas Service Bars-2, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon-3, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Palm, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, and the Expert Badge (rifle M16). After retirement from the military, Nate briefly worked at Midwest Furniture before turning his attention to advancing his education. Nate attended Great Plains Technology Center where he received his Masonry and Tiling Certifications in Nov. 1992 and launched his own successful tiling business. Nate was a member of the Masonic Lodge where he held numerous leadership positions including Past Master of Rising Star Lodge #18, member of Golden Limit Consistory #133, Past Potentate of Menes Temple #32 Prince Hall Affiliate. In April of 1999, Nate became a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**. He contributed his leadership skills to the Vietnam Veterans of America where he served as President of Chapter #751 and as Oklahoma State Council President. He received the Veteran's Hero Award September of 2010 and earned a Certificate of Recognition for his services to America's Disabled Veterans October of 2015. Serving veterans was one of his greatest passions. Nate was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed getting into mischief on his Polaris and he absolutely loved hunting and fishing; but above all else, Nathaniel treasured and loved his family. His greatest joy was spending time with those he loved and those times will live in our hearts forever. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cynthia and Louis Washington, Jr.; and five sisters; Mary Alice, Patricia, Marie, Brenda, and Tasha. He is survived by his wife Deloris, who was his high school sweetheart and best friend for over 53 wonderful years, and his two daughters: Erica and husband Tommie Walker of Elgin, Oklahoma and Farria and husband Donnell Finley of Atlanta, Georgia. and six grandchildren who were his pride and joy. Grandchildren include: Patience Walker (fiancé James Snow), Tommie Walker, Jr., Elias Nathaniel Walker, Jaidyn Mae Finley, Taris Finley, and Mattias Finley. He was also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless dear friends. A private family service was held at 9:30 AM on Monday, August 30, 2021. The service may be viewed by following the livestream link at [www.beckerfuneral.com](http://www.beckerfuneral.com) or by visiting the Becker-Rabon Funeral Home Facebook page. Burial with full military honors was at 11:00 AM at the Fort Sill National Cemetery



Elgin, Oklahoma. Friends were invited to attend the graveside portion of the service. Family greeted friends from 5:00-7:00 PM on Sunday at the funeral home.



**ROBERT E. "Bob" WESTFALL** - Died Wednesday, July 28, 2021 in The Villages, Florida at the age of 74, after a long courageous battle with cancer. He was formerly of Newburgh, New York. He was born in Newburgh on January 28, 1947 to the late Meredith and Violet (née Rajala) Westfall. Robert graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in 1965 and excelled in football and track. Robert was drafted in 1966 to the United States Army and served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War, and received many medals during his service. He also proudly served in the Army National Guard and Air Force National Guard. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Oxford Chapter #1036**, Disabled American Veterans, Purple Heart Society, Villages Shooters Club, and attended Saint Mark Church. He retired from Verizon in 2002. Survivors include his beloved wife, Diane Pullaro; his children Michael (Deborah) Westfall of Newburgh, NY, Erin Westfall of Fruitland Park, FL, and Brian, Matt and Bill Pullaro; his brother Fred Westfall of Cornwall, NY; his sister Patricia (Kevin) Crawford of Appalo Beach, FL; his brothers-in-law Thomas (Debra) and Richard (Carol) Grant, and sister-in-law Virginia Grant; his grandchildren Michael, Ryan, Carolyn, Christian, Sydney, Maelie and Grayson; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his beloved wife Leslie (Grant) Westfall, his brother Steven Westfall, and his father and mother-in-law Gordon and Margaret Grant. Visitation was held from 4:00-7:00 PM on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Brooks Funeral Home, 481 Gidney Avenue, Newburgh. A service was held on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the funeral home, with inurnment with military honors following in Cedar Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org), or Saint Patrick's Soup Kitchen, 55 Grand Street, Newburgh, NY 12550.

**JOSEPH EDWARD WHITE, SR.** - Died Friday, August 13, 2021 at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center - Montefiore Hospital at the age of 72. He was a resident of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on December 25, 1948 to the late Herbert and Iva (née Freed) White. He was a member of the Big Beaver Police Dept., the Beaver County Horseshoe League and the Marine Corps. He was also a proud United States Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Freedom Chapter #862**. He is survived by his wife, Kathy (née Eichler) White; four children, Scott (Debbie) White, Joe White, Jr., Laura (Eric) Logan and Valerie (Todd) McCracken; fourteen grandchildren; sister, Tina Shoaff; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Johnny and Tim and sisters, Flora and Janet. There was a visitation on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Campbell's Chippewa Funeral Home, 2618 Darlington Road, Beaver Falls, Pa 15010, with the Veteran's Honor Guard to begin at 7:30 PM and a service with Pastor Matthew Law followed.



**ROGER "Dan" WIESMORE** – Died Friday, August 27, 2021 in Churchville, New York at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Buffalo, New York on March 19, 1946. Dan is predeceased by his daughter, Tracey Karch; brothers, Calvin "Kelly" Wiesmore, Ron Wiesmore and Dale Wiesmore. He is survived by his loving wife, Linda Wiesmore; son, Tim (Angela) Wiesmore; son in law, Mark Karch; grandchildren, Vanessa Wiesmore, Logan Karch and Connor Karch; sisters in laws, Janet Wiesmore, Margaret Pills, Linda Ends and Sharon Pitts and Judy Gueldenpfennig; brothers in laws, Larry Pitts, Danny Pitts, Ted Pitts and Brian Pitts; nephews, Dan and Patrick Wiesmore; several other nieces and nephews. He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20**. A private military service was held in Dan's honor. Please consider donating to Chapter #20 Vietnam Veterans of America, PO Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 in Dan's memory.

**DON F. WOOLUM** – Died Sunday, July 11, 2021 in Cincinnati, Ohio at the age of 75. The cause of death was heart failure. He was born in Chillicothe, Ohio on May 19, 1946. He enlisted in the United States Army on September 10, 1964 and did a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Cincinnati Chapter #10**.



**TOLBERT EARL WYATT** (USA, CW2-Ret.) – Died Monday, August 16, 2021 in Lawton, Oklahoma at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Jonesboro, Louisiana on March 13, 1946 to the union of Henry Cleave Wyatt and Lizzie (née Tatum) Wyatt. Tolbert joined Mount Earia CME Church in Jonesboro, Louisiana at an early age. He was a Member of the 1964 graduating class of Jackson High School. He joined the United States Army in September 1966 and retired in September 1988 as Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2). Tolbert was born to serve and loved every minute. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**. He was an entrepreneur at heart and was determined to make a name for himself. Popularly known as "Mr. Mabuhay", he and his wife Daisy owned and operated Mabuhay Philippines Market in Lawton for 16 years. Mabuhay Philippines brought so much joy and value to the people of Lawton as it became a place where people of various ethnicities could buy grocery items from their home countries. Tolbert was also an independent Associate for Legal Shield and he even started the "Jonesboro Hodge Memories" Facebook page for members who grew up in Jackson Parish can keep in touch. Share old photos and videos of days gone by, milestone events, and articles relating to Jackson Parish. Tolbert loved helping others in whatever ways he could. He was an "Energizer Bunny" with an abundance of knowledge and talents. He could fix anything he set his mind to and was greatly known for his amazing crawfish boil skills. If Tolbert could be described in one word, that word would be persistent. If he had his mind set on something, he was going to do it. He had a way of making sure he got what he wanted out of life and he truly did just that. There wasn't one thing he left undone or unsaid before he left this world. Tolbert was preceded in death by parents: Henry Cleave Wyatt and Lizzie Tatum Wyatt; brothers and sisters: Merdis Wyatt; Ceave Wyatt; Levirgis LV "Boot" Wyatt; MC Wyatt;

Maggie; Dell Scott, and Lee Dell Francis; and daughter, Debra R. Combs. Those left to cherish his memories are his wife, Daisy Wyatt of Lawton; daughters: Davina Wyatt of Minneapolis, MN; Kimberly Wyatt and Kristine Wyatt of Lawton; sisters: Verlin Petway; Mary Ellis; and Lori Jackson Critton of Jonesboro, LA; grandchildren: Sherman Combs and Joshua Combs of Jonesboro, LA; Rickey Fugate; Marquise Fugate; and Sy'ril of Minneapolis, MN and abundance of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Services were held on Friday, August 27, 2021 at 12:00 Noon at the Rose Hill Church of Christ.

**CHARLES W. YORK** – Died Monday, August 9, 2021 in the Lawton Fort Sill Veterans Center in Lawton, Oklahoma at the age of 76. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on September 15, 1944. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1993 with one tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a *Permanently Hospitalized Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**.

**ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD! AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM!  
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE! AMEN! MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL  
DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE!**