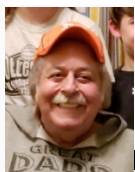




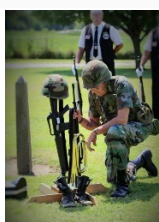
**ROY L. ALDRET** - Died Friday, March 24, 2023 at his residence in Pineville, Louisiana at the age of 72. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on August 31, 1950 to the late Archie Lee Aldret and Mable Marie (née Vicknair) Aldret. He was also predeceased by his wife of 33 years, Bonner (née McKneely) Aldret; and his sister, Dorothy Aldret Moore. He was a long-time member of Saint Michael Episcopal Church, Pineville, and loved to cook, a good joke and music. He was very hospitable and loved time spent with family and friends. He proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Alexandria Chapter #1131**. During his working career he was a cable repairman with AT&T, retiring after 38 years of service. Roy leaves to cherish his memory, his son, Randy Aldret, and his wife Stephanie Aldret; his sister, Joy Aldret Hirsch, niece, Dana Urena, nephews, Tim Urena and Gary Moore, Jr. and a host of other family members and friends. The funeral service was held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at Saint Michael Episcopal Church with Reverend George Gennuso officiating. The interment was in Greenwood Memorial Park, under the direction of Hixson Brothers, Pineville, with Military Honors provided by the Fort Polk Military Honor Guard. The family asked that friends call Tuesday, March 28, 2023 from 5:00 until 8:00 PM at the funeral home in Pineville. Visitation resumed on Wednesday at the church from 8:30 AM until the time of the service. The pallbearers honored to serve were Tim Urena, Gary Moore, Jr., Triz McKneely, Jr., Charles McKneely, Jared Ward, and Obie Ward. The honorary pallbearers were Roy Steve Hendricks, Ken McKneely and Steve Branch. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society at <https://donate.cancer.org/>, or the Wounded Warrior Project at <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>. To extend on-line condolences to the Aldret family, please contact us at [www.hixsonbrothers.com](http://www.hixsonbrothers.com).

**CHARLES JOSEPH BATTISTE** – Died Sunday, March 12, 2023 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on February 27, 1947. He is survived by his wife, Victoria. He served in the United States Navy with a tour in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Baton Rouge Chapter #852**. The funeral service was held in the Rose Hill Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.



**MICHAEL ANTHONY “Mike” BECK** - Died Thursday, March 30, 2023 at his home in Fostoria, Ohio at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 14, 1949 in Altoona, Pennsylvania to the late John and Elinor (née Kelley) Beck. He married Margaret “Peg” (née Ellis) Beck on March 17, 1973 in Fostoria. Mike’s pride and joys were his wife of 50 years; his four daughters, Tammy Beck, Teresa (Sam) Kitchen of Fremont, Richelle (Josh) Yost of Versailles, KY, Christina (Randall) Bradner of Kansas; seven grandchildren, Elijah, Ella and Isaac Kitchen, Landon, Camdon, Maggie and Ashdon Yost; sister Pat Bennett of Lorraine, OH and his 1970 RT Dodge Charger. He is preceded in death by parents, John and Elinor; daughter, Tammy;

sisters, Kathleen Pavia & Barbara Kaiser; brother-in-law, Robert Bennett Sr., son-in law, Josh Yost and granddaughter, Maggie Lynn Yost. Mike was a 1967 graduate of Sandusky High School. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army. He was a decorated Vietnam Veteran and a Purple Heart recipient. Mike retired from the US Postal Service after 27 years of being a letter carrier. Mike loved spending time with his family, driving his Charger, playing poker with his friends, and reminiscing with other Veterans at the VFW Post #421, was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter #440*, AMVETS Post #69 and American Legion Post #73. He will be missed for his positivity and genuineness. Mike had such an infectious smile and love of life. He enjoyed rooting for Cleveland Sports and The Ohio State Buckeyes. A memorial service and military honors was held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Veteran's Chapel in Fountain Cemetery, Fostoria, OH. Memorials can be made to the Fostoria United Veterans or the donor's choice.



**DOYLE BRENT BECKMAN** (USA, SFC-Ret.) – Died Monday, April 24, 2023 at his home in Walker, Missouri at the age of 76. He was formerly a resident of El Dorado Springs, Missouri. The cause of death was lung cancer. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1947 to the late Roy and Gertrude Beckman. Doyle was known to his family and friends as Brent or “Grumpy.” Brent and his parents moved several times because of work. They moved to west Texas when Brent was six and stayed about a year. The family moved back to Missouri, living in Noel, Peculiar, and Nashua. When Brent’s dad retired in July 1962, the family moved to El Dorado Springs and bought a farm. Brent resided on the farm until his passing. At age eleven, Brent took accordion lessons and bought his first accordion. Brent was a very talented musician and could play any instrument he wanted. Later in life, in his “free time,” Brent started his own band “Cheyenne Wind.” Many memories were made as the group often practiced in Brent’s home. Brent attended El Dorado Springs High School and graduated in 1965. After graduation he enlisted in the US Navy for four years. Brent served in the Missouri National Guard and Missouri Naval Reserve. He then returned to the Missouri National Guard. He retired in 2007 as SFC and a veteran of the Vietnam and Iraqi wars. Brent selflessly spent 29 ½ years in the military serving his country. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Moundville Chapter #918*. In 1970, Brent was united in marriage to Barbara Scoggins of Stanton, Texas. To this union two sons were born, Kyle Brent and James Roy. In 2004, Brent was united in marriage to Shirley (Welton) Alexander. Through this union, Brent added two sons, Jamie and Bill and a daughter, Tonya “Sis.” Preceding Brent in death were his parents, Roy and Gertrude; sons, Jim Beckman and Jamie Alexander; brother, Bud; and sisters, Iris, Wanda, and Rosann. Brent is survived by his wife, Shirley, of the home; his children, Kyle Beckman of El Dorado Springs, Bill Alexander and his wife, Alison, of El Dorado Springs, Tonya Hooper and her husband, Alan, of El Dorado Springs; grandchildren: Rheaonna Green, Emma Beckman, Sage Beckman, Sydney Beckman, Shawn Eby and her husband, Nathan, Jerrod Alexander and his wife, Katie, Andrea Thomas and her husband, Rusty, Ashten Saur and her husband, Dakota, Kylie Alexander, Bret

Alexander, Courtney Wosoba and her husband, Daniel, and Roy Hooper; and great-grandchildren: Sebastien, Brinley, Briar, Bo, Brax, Ava, Parker, Presly, Kanon, Paxtyn, Hudsyn, Brooke, Jennifer, Abbi Jean, Sara Mae, Beckham, and Lucah. Brent is also survived by many wonderful friends. Brent was extremely intelligent and skilled. He could build or fix anything. He knew a lot about history and politics and loved to share his thoughts with a sheepish grin. His heart was big, and his door was always open to family and friends. Brent will be greatly missed.

**HERBERT LAFAYETTE BLACKMON, SR.** - Died Thursday, March 16, 2023 in Copperas Cove, Texas at the age of 86. The cause of death were complications from a surgical procedure. He was born in Saint Louis, Missouri on August 7, 1936. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1956 and was honorably discharged in 1974. He did a tour of duty in Vietnam from August 1, 1967 to September 24, 1968. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Harker Heights Chapter #1000**. A Memorial Service for Herbert was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery at 11:00 AM. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.crawfordbowerscopperascove.com](http://www.crawfordbowerscopperascove.com) for the Blackmon family.



**JOHN THOMAS BRESNAHAN** - Died Wednesday, March 15, 2023 in Livonia, Michigan at the age of 72. He was a resident of Plymouth, Michigan. The cause of death is unknown. John was born in Detroit, Michigan on October 31, 1950 to the late Norma and John Bresnahan. He was married in 1980 to the late Barbara Bresnahan. They were married for 34 years. Surviving are his two stepchildren Todd and Brian (Nanette) Bales. Also, his sister Nancy Felty and brother Mark (Estelle) Bresnahan, along with nieces, Dawn Brown, Natalie Carling, Alaina (Patrick) Griffin, Candice Bresnahan and nephew Charlie Bresnahan. After graduation from Redford High School in Detroit, John enlisted in the United States Navy where he served for 16 months. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Plymouth Chapter #528**. Following that, he worked for 30 plus years at Chrysler. Friends visited the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-7:00 PM. A service was held at the Funeral Home on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. Those who wish to honor the memory of John Bresnahan were invited to consider a contribution to Vietnam Veterans of America, VFW Post #695, 1426 South Mill Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.



**SCOTT ALLAN CAHAK** – Died Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at home in Hillsboro, Texas at the age of 73, after a sudden and swiftly progressing onset of lymphoma. He was born in Rhinelander, Wisconsin on November 27, 1948 to the late Myron “Mike” Cahak and Ruth (née Garber) Cahak. He passed away with his loving wife Delma (née Innis) Cahak by his side. Scott graduated from Rhinelander Union High School in 1967 and served in Vietnam in the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry of the United States Army from 1970-1971. After serving, he returned home and married

Patricia “Patty” (née Osterman) Cahak. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville and had a long career as a civil engineer. With his first wife Patty he raised two children, Andrew and Abigail. Scott married Delma in November of 2011. He happily settled in Hillsboro with Delma for more than a decade. Scott was welcomed by his extended family of four stepdaughters -- Bonnie, Emily, Jenny, and Molly -- and relished with pride his new role as “Pa.” He enjoyed spending time with all of his grandchildren, Braydon, Marleigh, Maggie, Camille, Lucy, Claire, Jude, Remi and Knox. Scott was a quiet man who possessed a lived-in intelligence and a great sense of humor. He was a firm believer in “dad jokes,” some of which were good but most of which were not. If you asked him what was for dinner, he would most always respond “dog poop soup.” He loved animals and was a friend to every dog, chicken, and donkey he met. He was a hard worker and enjoyed keeping himself busy on the Hillsboro ranch. For many years Scott did not talk about his time in Vietnam but in the last decade reconnected with his brothers in arms with whom he had so many shared experiences. He and Delma organized and hosted veterans’ reunions in 2018 and 2021 -- something that brought him great joy. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – De Pere Chapter #224*. He was buried at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Scott is survived by his wife Delma, children Andrew and Abigail (Richard); stepdaughters Bonnie (Casey), Jenny, and Molly (Chris); and his siblings Michael, John (Tracee), Tim (Joni), Tina (Bernie), and Ric (Victor) and nine grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his father Mike and mother Ruth, and stepdaughter Emily.

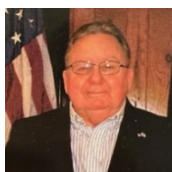


**WAYNE C. CANNON** - Died Saturday, March 18, 2023 at his residence in Morristown, Tennessee at the age of 78. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Morristown on January 8, 1945 to the late Clifford Leonard Cannon and Beulah (née Williams) Cannon. He attended Morristown Hamblen East High School, was a member of Alpha Baptist Church since 1976, a United States Army Veteran having served in the Vietnam War, and a retiree of Shelby Williams Industries after 29 years of service. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Morristown Chapter #1073*. Preceding him in death were his mother: Beulah Williams Cannon, father: Clifford Leonard Cannon, brother: James “Buddy” Cannon, sister: Martha Cannon Dennis, and bonus daughter: Alesia Collins Frazier. Wayne is survived by his wife of 47 years, Donna (née Collins) Cannon; children: Waynah Cannon Hodge, Jamia Cannon (Ray) Hensley, Hubert Collins, Flora Collins (Albert) Gamble, and Barry Collins. Sisters: Judy Cannon Sharp and Betty Cannon Porterfield. Grandchildren: Dusty Clark, Dallas (Michaela) Shaver, Rachel Shaver, Kaileigh Collins, Jeffery (Katelyn) Frazier, II, Stephanie Frazier, Jade (Tyler) Mackey, Annika Hodge, Kelsey Hensley (Garrison) Taylor. Great grandchildren: Juanita Frazier, Julian Frazier, Raleigh Frazier, Christian Frazier, Jeffery Frazier, III, and Jace Frazier. The family received friends on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 from 1:00 until 2:30 PM at the Stubblefield Funeral Home with funeral services at 2:30 PM. Reverend Heath Smith officiated. Military graveside services were in the Hamblen Memory Gardens. The family would like to thank Smoky Mountain Hospice for

their excellent service they provided, and to the Alpha Baptist Church family and friends for all of their prayers.



**NIKKI MARIE (née Townsend) CASEY** (USAF, MSgt.-Ret.) - Died Saturday, January 7, 2023 in Reno, Nevada at the age of 71. The cause of death is unknown. Nikki was a proud Native of Nevada born on August 4, 1951 in Reno to the late James D. and Patricia N. Townsend. A 1969 graduate of Wooster High School, married Gilbert Casey and had a son, James Casey. She joined the United States Air Force in 1973 and retired in 1993. She was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Reno Chapter #989**. She returned to Reno in 2003 and resumed her massage therapy practice. She explored real estate but massage kept calling her back. Nikki became very involved in the Women's Golf League and the Bowling League, meeting new and wonderful friends. Between the dash of her birth and passing, Nikki had many adventures, too many to list. Preceding her in death are her mother and father, brothers Craig and Curtis, son James Edward and many dear friends and her beloved furry family. Missing her are sisters, Renee and (Patric) Henry, Barbara Stamps, Joyce Hiney, Carole and (Bill) Worthen, numerous nephews and nieces and adored grand nephews and nieces, plus a large contingent of wonderful cousins and friends. A small military honors ceremony was held at the Veterans Cemetery in Fernley on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM with a celebration of life following at 725 Lampe Road, Reno, NV from 2:00-6:00 PM that same day.



**DENNIS WESLEY COHOON** - Died Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the Munson Medical Center, in Traverse City, Michigan at the age of 77, with his family at his side. He was a resident of Manistee, Michigan. The cause of death is unknown. Dennis was born in Columbus, Ohio on November 23, 1945 to the late Ned and Betty (née McCormick) Cohoon and raised in Midland, Michigan. Dennis joined the United States Army and proudly served his country from 1965 until he was honorably discharged in 1968. He was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, was Airborne-qualified, Ranger-qualified and served with Special Forces. He earned a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman Badge while serving in Vietnam. Following his tour in Vietnam, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Ferris State University. His career included a variety of vocations: accounting partnership, Century 21 co-owner, broker of two offices, Ford Dealership Sales Manager and Auto Sales Person. Following his retirement in 2009, his ambition was to help serve his fellow veterans. He held the following positions with pride: *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – James Huard (Dearborn Heights) Chapter #267** as its Treasurer, VVA State Council Treasurer, National Region #5 Director, VFW Lyskawa Post #7546 Quartermaster, and American Legion Post 364 'Rider'. He moved to Manistee in 2017 and briefly held the position as Quartermaster for VFW Walsh Post #4499. Due to his unexpected declining health issues, he stepped away. His passion



from an early age of hunting and fishing helped lead him to the Big Bear Sportsman's Club, where he was elected a Director. Dennis is survived by: his wife of 39 years, Linda; daughter, Gretchen (Carlo) Blackmore; son, Dan McGregor; two grandchildren, Willow and Brianna; sister, Vicki Westbrook; brother, Sid (Jan) Cohoon; sisters-in-law, Denise (Ross) Hohfeldt and Janet (Bruce) Iannicello; nieces and nephews, Brian, Jennifer, John, Kristina, Matt, and Nicki; and their children. He is also survived by many extended family members and friends. A Memorial and Celebration of His Life was conducted at 1:00 PM on Friday, June 9, 2023 at the Big Bear Sportsman's Club, 8927 Puustinen Road, in Kaleva with Military Honors conducted by the VFW Walsh Post #4499. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to: VVA James Huard Chapter #267, VFW Lyskawa Post #7546, VFW Walsh Post #4499 or the American Legion Post #364.



**PASTOR DELBERT FRANCIS COPAS** - Died Monday, March 27, 2023 at his home in Rarden, Ohio at the age of 73. The cause of death was respiratory failure. He was born on February 6, 1950 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the late William Francis Copas and Ester (née Robinson) Copas. On August 12, 1972, he was united in marriage to Lelia (née Cockrell) Copas. In addition to his wife, surviving are his children; Tonya (Wayne) Cooley, Kim (Alan) Swayne, Mark (Shari) Copas, Cyndi (Kevin) Jenkins, Kevin (Renee) Copas, Jay Dee (Jennifer) Copas and Keith Copas; grandchildren, Lisa, Blake, Garrett, Savannah, Austin, Gavin "Baby Moon," Valerie, Jesse, "Noodle" Nate, Jared, Jaxon, Lauren, Katie and Jamie; six great-grandchildren; siblings, Roger (Delores) Copas of Cridersville, Eileen Comer of Jacksonville, Florida, Sue Conley of Dayton and Gail Harr of Dayton. In addition to his parents, Delbert was preceded in death by one grandson, Mikey Orban; sisters, Betty Ann Goddard and Diane Blankenship and brother in laws, James Comer, Harold Conley and Robert Harr. Delbert was the Pastor of Mount Joy Christian Church and was a traveling evangelist who ministered and sang in several states, sharing his love of God at numerous revivals. He worked 32 years at Southern Ohio Correctional Facility and gave back to his community by being a former firefighter for the village of Rarden and was the former mayor of Rarden. He was a proud United States Army Veteran where he was a tank operator and served his country during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – South Shore (Kentucky) Chapter 1006*. Delbert also brought many smiles to children in the area for over 40 years playing the role of Santa. His most important job was being a husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather to his family. Funeral Services were held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 2, 2023 at Mount Joy Christian Church in Rarden with Pastor Bob Davis officiating. The burial was in U.P. Cemetery military graveside honors by Wm. Baker Post #363. The family received friends on Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 4:00–6:00 PM at the Botkin Hornback Funeral Home in Otway. [www.botkinhornbackfuneralhomes.com](http://www.botkinhornbackfuneralhomes.com).



**ROBERT ALAN “Bob” COUTURIER** – Died Sunday, April 16, 2023 in Canton, Michigan at the age of 70. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Sparta, Michigan on April 18, 1952. He was the beloved husband of Kathy; loving father of Carey (Rich) Koscho, Stacey (Eric) Ramirez; proud grandpa of Grayson-Hannah, Emma, Ella, Kaylee, and the late Richie; dear brother of Suzette (Lou) Bernstein, Pamela Vaillancourt, and the late Wayne Couturier, and; uncle to several nieces and nephews. Robert served in the United States Air Force from 1973-1976. He was a proud member of the American Legion Post #32, having served on the Executive Board, and former Director of the American Legion Post #32 Riders and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Plymouth Chapter #528**. Mr. Couturier was formerly employed with Eastern Airlines and Northwest Airlines, before retiring from Delta Airlines in 2011. Visitation was held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 PM until the Saturday 5:00 PM Funeral Service at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road West (between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Myron H. Beals, American Legion Post #32, 9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150. To share a message, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.



**LARRY JAMES COX** – Died Monday, March 27, 2023 of Clarinda, Iowa at the age of 76 at Good Samaritan Health Care in Villisca, Iowa. The cause of death is unknown. Larry was born on July 7, 1946 at Saint Francis Hospital in Maryville, Missouri to the late Elvin James Cox and Coryl Correne (née Hensley) Cox. He grew up in Conway, Iowa on a farm. Larry graduated from Bedford Community High School in 1964 and then attended Northwest Missouri State University, graduating with a BS in Education in 1968. He then enlisted in the United States Army, and served in Vietnam from 1969-1971 earning the rank of Sergeant. Upon his honorable discharge, Larry returned to Northwest Missouri State and received a Master of Arts Degree in History. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Des Moines Chapter #490**. Larry left the Conway area and his love for animals and nature and moved to Des Moines, Iowa where he lived for 47 years. Larry worked for the Federal Reserve Bank for 40 years until his retirement. He also worked many years for the Pepsi Company on a part time basis. Because of health reasons, Larry moved to Clarinda, Iowa to be closer to his brother and sister and his family. Larry was baptized in 1960 at the Bedford Christian Church. At one point in time, Larry wrote a story about Moses in the Bible and suggested he may someday become a Pastor or a Missionary. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Coryl Cox; grandparents, John and Millie Cox, and Dewey and Bernice Hensley; and a niece, Correne Cox Welch. Left to cherish his life and memories are his sister, Elaine (Tom) Howard; brother, Ron (Brenda) Cox; nieces and nephews, Susan Howard, Andrea (Jim) Prokupek, Tommy (Kala) Howard, Fletcher (Rachael) Cox, Troy (Carly) Cox; dear friends, Bob and Jenna Waldron since his college years; along with other relatives and friends. A private graveside funeral service was held on Friday, March 31, 2023 at

the Fairview Cemetery in Bedford, Iowa. Memorials may be directed towards his family in Larry's honor.



**CARL G. CUMMINGS** - Died Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at Edgewater Haven Nursing Home in Port Edwards, Wisconsin at the age of 81. He was a resident of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. The cause of death is unknown. Carl was born on October 1, 1941 in Bancroft, Wisconsin to the late Frank Cummings, Sr. and Bernice (née Murray) Cummings. After graduating high school, Carl enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was stationed at Kincheloe Air Force Base in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where he met and married the love of his life Georgia Blair. They moved to Wisconsin Rapids and started his career at Consolidated Papers. He retired in 2000. Carl enjoyed attending Heroes Café, was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Wisconsin Rapids Chapter #101** and was in the American Legion. Carl lived his life by God, family and country. He made walking sticks and would carry a couple in his car to give to those in need. Carl is survived by his son, Mark (Carmen) Cummings; grandchildren, Avery Faehling, Dylan Zimmerman, Austin Cummings and Thomas Hunt; his sister, Ann Attoe; sisters-in-law, Mary Burmeister and Phyllis Cummings, he further survived by many nieces and nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Georgia Cummings; his brothers, Bob (Carol) Cummings, Gerald (Miriam) Cummings, Frankie (Patsy) Cummings, Albion “Albie” Cummings; sister, Dorothy (Arnold) Beggs and by his brother-in-law Jim Burmeister. Carl’s family would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the care givers at Edgewater, Edenbrook and Compassus for all the care they gave Carl. Funeral Services were held on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Bancroft Baptist Church 8376 Klondyke Street, Bancroft with Pastor Jeffrey Silha presiding. The burial with military honors followed at the Pine Grove Cemetery. Visitation was held on Saturday from 9:00 AM until the time of the services at the church. The Herman-Taylor Funeral Home was honored to be serving the fami



**ALICE JOSEPHINE DELGADO** (USA, COL-Ret.) - Died Thursday, December 29, 2022 at the Palatka Center for Rehabilitation and Healing in Palatka, Florida at the age of 92, following an extended illness. She was a resident of Interlachen, Florida. The cause of death is unknown. She was born in Ybor City, Florida on July 12, 1930. Alice was a 1952 graduate of the Florida State College for Women (later renamed Florida State University) where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. A decorated career military officer and a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict, Alice rose to the rank of Colonel in the United States Army where she was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for valor for rescuing occupants of a South Vietnamese hotel that was on fire after being bombed. Her other military awards and accolades included: two Republic of Vietnam Unit Citations; a Good Conduct Medal (received during her first year of service as an enlisted service



member); the Army Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters; a Presidential Unit Citation; a Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters; and the Legion of Merit. Alice had commanded the rifle squad in Interlachen; was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Orange Park Chapter #1059**, a life member of the American Legion Post #293 (where she was instrumental in organizing the ceremonial rifle squad); and the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association in Fort McClellan, Alabama. Affectionately known by her family and friends as "Baby," Alice enjoyed fishing, the out-of-doors, and being of service to the community. She was a member of Liberty Baptist Church in Palatka. She was preceded in death by brothers, Rev. Oswald Delgado, Frank Delgado, WO Albert Delgado, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), and Robert Delgado; and sisters, Mary Facenda, Grace Levy, Nell Doren, and Neva Delgado. Survivors include her beloved partner and companion of 50 years, Mary Melissa Lucia of Interlachen; and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held at 10:30 AM on Monday, January 9, 2023 at the Masters Funeral Home in Palatka with Reverend Dr. Don Aycock officiating. Friends were invited to call starting an hour before the start of the service. An honor guard was provided by the Woodworth-Webb American Legion Post #293 of Interlachen. The inurnment was at 2:30 PM in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida with full military honors rendered by the U.S. Army. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be sent to your local humane society or the Gainesville Orchestra, P.O. Box 357011, Gainesville, FL 32635. Messages of sympathy may be shared on Col. Delgado's online tribute page at [www.themastersfuneralhome.com](http://www.themastersfuneralhome.com). The Masters Funeral Home of Palatka was in charge of the arrangements.



**JOHN DIJAMES** - Died Thursday, February 9, 2023 in Rochester, New York at the age of 77, surrounded by the love of his family. The cause of death is unknown. John was born in Rochester on July 18, 1945 to the late Joseph and Susie DiJames. He served his country honorably in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20**. On August 7, 1970 John married the love of his life, Ann. They were married for over 50 years and together they raised three daughters. John was a loyal employee to Rochester Products for over 30 years. John will be remembered for his love of golf, fishing, bowling, and classic cars. His passion in life was his family. He is predeceased by his siblings, Esther DiJames, Louis DiJames, and his sister-in-law, Hilde DiJames. He is survived by his loving wife, Ann DiJames, his daughters, Elizabeth (Dan) Fedison, Angela (Scott) Shaw, and Deborah (Greg) Maier, his grandchildren, John, Brooke, Ethan, and Adam, his brother, Raymond DiJames, his sister-in-law, Barbara DiJames, and many close nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Calling hours were held at the New Comer Cremations and Funerals, 6 Empire Boulevard, Rochester, NY on Monday, February 13, 2023 from 4:00-7:00 PM. A graveside service was held at the Riverside Cemetery, Rochester, NY on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

**MARK JOHN DONAHUE** – Died Thursday, February 9, 2023 in Rochester, New York at the age of 73. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Elmira, New York on August 9, 1949. He served in the United States Army from July 8, 1969 to February 6, 1971. He was a *Life Member*

of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20**. A Memorial Service was held on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Anthony Funeral Chapel, 2305 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY. The service was livestreamed

**TERRY JOE ENGLISH** – Died Monday, April 17, 2023 in Birmingham, Alabama at the age of 77. The cause of death was terminal cancer. He was born in Republic, Alabama on March 4, 1946. He served in the United States Army from May 1967 to May 1969 with a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Gardendale Chapter #416**.



**ARTHUR EDWARD “Rocky” ESSENPREIS, JR.** - Died Monday, March 13, 2023 at Aviston Countryside Manor in Aviston, Illinois at the age of 75. He was a resident of Breese, Illinois. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on June 11, 1947 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin to the late Marcella (née Neuser) Essenpreis, and Arthur Edward Essenpreis, Sr. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Robert (Carol) Essenpreis, Joey Coleman, and Ronald Essenpreis; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Gail and Maxine, nee Purdie, Purves. Rocky is survived by his wife, Paula (née Purves) Essenpreis, of Breese, whom he married July 13, 1974 in Carlyle; children, Mike (Shannon) Essenpreis of Amherstburg, Ontario and Caitlyn (Dan) Knoebel of Mascoutah; grandchildren, Afften and Lauren Essenpreis and Brayden and Lana Knoebel; siblings, Sharon Segovia of Chicago, Gary Essenpreis of Albuquerque, NM, and Jerry (Ruth) Essenpreis of Poulsbo, WA; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Donald Coleman of Tucson, AZ and Rita Essenpreis of Chicago; and numerous nieces and nephews. Rocky enlisted in the United States Army in 1966 to attend the United States Army Helicopter Flight School. He completed training in 1967 and was assigned as a helicopter pilot to 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division, where he served with distinction. Upon leaving active duty, he joined the United States Army Reserves, and served there for over twenty-five years, retiring from the military in 1996. He was a Master Army Aviator and served as a pilot, instructor pilot, and maintenance test pilot for the 102<sup>nd</sup> ARCOM flight facility at Scott Airforce Base. Rocky continued his government service with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) as an Aeronautical Intelligence Analyst and retired in 2008. He was a member of Saint Dominic Catholic Church in Breese, Breese American Legion Post #252, and *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Breese Chapter #269**. He was an avid golfer and loved pitching horseshoes in the Clinton County League. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Saint Dominic Catholic Church in Breese with Reverend Father Patrick Peter presiding. The interment was at Saints Dominic and Augustine Cemetery in Breese with full military honors accorded. Visitation was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 5:00–7:00 PM and again on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 from 9:00–9:45 AM at the Moss Funeral Home in Breese. In lieu of flowers, plants, and other gifts, memorials may be made to the American Service Animal Society at [www.dogs4vets.org](http://www.dogs4vets.org) or will be received at the visitation or by mail, Moss Funeral Home, 535 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Breese, IL 62230, who was in charge of the arrangements.



**JAMES LLOYD "Jim" FARQUER** - of Goshen, OH. Died Sunday, April 9, 2023 in Goshen, Ohio at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 20, 1946 in Mariemont, Ohio to the late Clarence David and Anna Marie (née Waits) Farquer. He was the beloved husband of Robin Gail (née Miller) Farquer; loving father of Jerilynn (Brad) Cushman, Jimmy (Marcia) Farquer, Tammy (Chris) Beck, Amie Owens and Joshua (Caroline) Owens; caring grandfather of Suzannah Cushman, Kylie Farquer, Clayton Farquer, Arianna Beck, Adamar Beck, Kylin Jay Hurtt, Michael Walter Hurtt, Robin Hunter, Taylor Goins, Alexis Owens and Josiah Owens; proud great-grandfather of Zoey Owens, Lenyx Hurtt, Judah Hurtt and Braylen Hurtt; dear brother of the late David (late Jeanette) Farquer; brother-in-law of Shannon Taylor and Walter Miller; son-in-law of Carolyn Miller; cherished son of the late Clarence David and Anna Marie (née Waits) Farquer. Also survived by numerous relatives and many dear friends. Jim proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He received a purple heart and bronze star with valor during his active duty. Jim was an avid hunter and master wood worker after retiring from General Motors. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Columbus Chapter #649**. A graveside service with military honors was held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Goshen Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in memory of Jim Farquer to the Vietnam Veterans of America Clermont County Chapter #649, c/o Union Township Civic Center, 4350 Aicholtz Road, Cincinnati, OH 45245.



**LARRY DANIEL "Danny" FARR** - Died Thursday, April 6, 2023 in Cullman, Alabama at the age of 78. The cause of death is unknown. Mr. Farr was born in Cullman County, Alabama on March 15, 1945 to the late Moses Daniel and Della Velva (née Bright) Farr. Mr. Farr served his country honorably in the United States Army. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and served in Korea as well. Danny was a member of the Cullman Association of Disabled American Veterans, the VFW, the American Legion, and Sons of the American Revolution. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Gardendale Chapter #416**. Danny and his wife of almost fifty-five years, Geraldine Thomas Farr, were members of Duck River Baptist Church where Danny served as a deacon, was on the cemetery board, and also served as a Sunday School teacher. Mr. Farr enjoyed vibrant ties, and his fellow church members looked forward to seeing which tie he would choose to wear every Sunday. Danny was also an Alabama Baptist Associational member. Bible study with fellow believers was an important part of Mr. Farr's life and he greatly enjoyed worshiping and learning with his church family. Mr. Farr retired from a long career as an educator. He began his teaching career in Huntsville, Alabama, at R.L. Stone, and later taught in Cullman County, Alabama, at both Welti and Hanceville Schools. Danny also

coached girls' basketball for both Welti and Hanceville. Mr. Farr served as a NEA/AEA teacher and was a member of the Alabama Retired Teachers Association. In addition to his career in education, Mr. Farr and his wife owned a farm. They row cropped both corn and soybeans and raised cows and chickens. Mr. and Mrs. Farr poultry farmed for over thirty years and Danny was a member and officer of the Cullman Poultry and Egg Association. In the free time that Danny had, he enjoyed traveling with his wife. They took several trips with other local couples, to numerous destinations across the country, and have many cherished memories of their travels. Mr. Farr also enjoyed a yearly trip to Tennessee in the fall to purchase sorghum syrup and honey from the Amish farmers of the area. Mr. Farr enjoyed antique cars, trucks, and tractors and enjoyed going to car shows. Mr. Farr was a loyal supporter of the Holly Pond Broncos and Holly Pond Athletics. He could often be found cheering on his children, and then his grandchildren, as they played sports for the Broncos. He was also a judge at the annual Holly Pond Turkey Shoot for over twenty years. Danny was active and involved in the community, and served his friends and neighbors in many ways. Family was very important to Danny, and he loved being with those he called his own. He adored his wife, and Mr. Farr was very proud of his children, Anita and Danny. He also cherished the grandchildren and great-grandchildren he had been so very blessed with. Mr. Farr was a dedicated husband and father, loving grandfather and great-grandfather, faithful friend, true patriot, and a servant of his Lord and Savior. Mr. Farr truly exemplified a servant's heart, and he will be greatly missed by many. Mr. Farr is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Dewayne Farr; and sisters, Delma Drake, Delaine Laney, Sharron Woodall. Those surviving Danny include his beloved wife, Geraldine Thomas Farr; son, Danny Farr (Shannon); daughter, Anita Winslow (Scott); grandchildren, Skylar, Zac, Noah, Levi, Alivia, Dylan; four great-grandchildren; and best friends, Jerry Cornelius, Harold Carr, and Pat Knab. A Celebration of Life was held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at the Duck River Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a one of the following charities: your local VFW, Disabled Veterans Association, or American Legion; the American Heart Association; the American Kidney Foundation; or any organization that helps those in need. The Holly Pond Funeral Home was honored to serve the Farr family



**JAMES PATRICK "Jim" FERRY** - Died Tuesday, March 14, 2023 in Dover, Indiana at the age of 76. He was formerly of Guilford, Indiana. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana on June 23, 1946 to the late George and Anne Ferry. A graduate of Lawrenceburg Consolidated High School, many will remember Jim from their childhood days as "Doc", a tribute to his dad who was a dentist in Lawrenceburg. After attending Indiana State University for 2 ½ years, Jim moved back home and worked at Schenley Distillery for a year before volunteering for the United States Army. He was sent to Vietnam and assigned to the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Rangers as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was part of the LRRP Group (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) as a member of the four-man ambush team. During his time in Vietnam, Jim was wounded twice within 17 days and was the recipient of two purple hearts as well as a bronze star. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Moores Hill Chapter #71**.

After returning home, Jim ran into Rosalind "Rosie" Wuestefeld at the Old E Tavern. After denying his request to dance many times at the Sunman dances during high school, Rosie finally agreed to go out with him. Jim must have known Rosie was the one all along because within a year they were married and shortly after expecting their first child. During that time Jim decided to go back to Indiana State where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degree. Upon completion of school, Jim & Rosie moved back to the area and he became the Industrial Arts teacher for the Northwest School District for 33 years. The father of three children and seven grandchildren, Jim's world revolved around his family. He enjoyed loving on his grandkids and was very proud of children's accomplishments. He especially loved to spend time with them at Lake Monroe where they would go fishing and boating. Jim also found joy in fishing with his childhood friends. He brought his Industrial Arts skills into their home where he built most of their furniture and several other household items. His meticulous craftsman skills recently turned into a passion for building with Legos. A proud VIP member of the Lego Club, he had a room full of his creations and even had to build more shelves on which to showcase his Lego masterpieces. Jim will be deeply missed by Rosie, his wife of 52 years, and his children Doug (Valerie) Ferry, Angela (Ryan) Miller, and Lori (Jay) Robinson; grandchildren Kyra, Alyssa, Aiden, Cole, Jack, Jameson, and Aubrey; sisters Sheila (Ritch) Merk and Elizabeth (Chuck) Andrews. Jim is preceded in death by his siblings George (Sandy) Ferry, Mary Anne (John) Steitz, and Thomas (Mildred) Ferry and parents Anne & George Ferry. Visitation for Jim was held on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM-12:30 PM at the Andres-Wuestefeld Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 1:00 PM at Saint John the Baptist Church of All Saints Parish with burial immediately following in the church cemetery. For those unable to attend, Mass was live-streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/aspweeklyhomily>. Memorials can be made to Saint Joseph American Legion Post #464 or Masses. Memorials will be taken at the visitation or can be mailed to Andres-Wuestefeld Funeral Home. Family and friends are encouraged to leave condolences at [www.andres-wuestefeldfh.com](http://www.andres-wuestefeldfh.com).



**JERRY WAYNE "Pork" FOUST** - Died Thursday, December 9, 2021 at his daughter's residence in Venedocia, Ohio at the age of 73, surrounded by his loving family. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Van Wert, Ohio but grew up in Scott, Ohio on February 4, 1948 to the late Delmar and Mary Arlene (née Sanderson) Foust. He was united in marriage to Marilyn "Scarecrow" Burnett on May 13, 1977, and she survives in Venedocia. Pork is survived by two daughters, Julie (Tim) Rickard of Maiden, North Carolina, and Sarah (Jason) Kimmet of Venedocia; a son, Andrew "Andy" (Monica Placke) Francis of Venedocia; grandchildren, Savannah, Jacob, and Olivia Rickard, Austin, Dawson, and Makenna Kimmet, Alexandria, Alanna, and Aaron Francis, and Haylie Placke; great-grandchildren, Sophia Butler and Colby McGinnis; one brother, Cecil Foust; two sisters, Rosemary Todd and Cheryll Miller, and many sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jean Foust. Pork was a graduate of Blue Creek High School, now Wayne Trace, Class of 1966. He then went on to join the United States Army.



He completed his basic training in Georgia, later stationed at Fort Eustis in Virginia, and then headed to Germany to serve during the Vietnam War. He was a part of the 714<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion and was a train engineer from 1968-1970, running steam, diesel and electric locomotives. His love of trains did not start with his time in the military but when he was young and watched his grandfather working his steam thrashing machine. He owned his rail truck, called the Bread Box, which he would ride from Venedocia to the Indiana Line. Throughout his life he road rails all over the country. Pork also worked for Sonoco Fiber Drum, formerly known as Continental Can, in Van Wert until his retirement in 1994. He was a member of the Venedocia Town Council, Van Wert American Legion Post #178, and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Celina Chapter #783**. He attended Salem Presbyterian Church in Venedocia. Pork served as a Sheriff's Auxiliary member in Van Wert County. He enjoyed operating his CB radio with his handle, "Casey Jones". Loyalty and love for his family were what was most important to Pork. Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 PM on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Salem Presbyterian Church, Venedocia. The burial was in the Venedocia Cemetery. Visitation was held from 12:00 Noon-2:00 PM on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Salem Presbyterian Church. Preferred memorials: Salem Presbyterian Church or Fisher House in Dayton.



**EUGENE M. "Gene" GARRATY** - Died Saturday, August 22, 2020 in Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania at the age of 71. He was a resident of Ridley Park. The cause of death is unknown. He was born Prospect Park, Pennsylvania on July 31, 1949. He was a graduate of Interboro High School and worked for many years as a carpenter. He proudly served his country in the United States Army 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division as a helicopter crew chief during the Vietnam War. Over the years he enjoyed interests such as boating, travelling in his motorhome and the time he spent riding his motorcycle with the Vietnam Vets Motorcycle club. He also supported many veteran organizations. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Media Chapter #67**. Gene enjoyed watching the Flyers and Eagles play. Survivors include his beloved wife Nancy; stepson Brian Cooper; four grandchildren; brothers Francis A. Garraty, Robert Garraty and James Garraty; sister Alyce Elliott and his adored dog "Honey". Private visitation was by invitation only. In lieu of flowers, contributions to be made to The Tunnel to Towers, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306. Services were private at the request of the family.



**SAMUEL JOSEPH GERACE** (USA, MAJ-Ret.) - Died Sunday, April 30, 2023 at his home in Lawton, Oklahoma at the age of 86, following a brief illness. The cause of death was cancer. He was born on October 1, 1936 in Batavia, New York to the late Dr. Samuel Joseph and Beatrice

(née Duffy) Gerace. He joined the United States Army and retired in 1979 with the rank of Major. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal- 2 OLC, the Meritorious Service Medal-1 OLC, the Army Commendation Medal-1 OLC, the Air Medal- 1 OLC, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/Palm, 2 Overseas Service Bars and the Aircraft Crewman's Badge. He served tours in Vietnam, Korea and Germany. Following his retirement from the Army, he worked in the Civil Service at Fort Sill as Range Control Chief for 24 years. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**. He married Barbel Hilmruth Maschke on May 12, 1967, in Munster, Germany. She preceded him in death on May 25, 2022. In 2021, Major Gerace was inducted into the Notre Dame High School Sports Hall of Fame in Batavia, New York. Samuel loved to work with electronics, was a great cook and genuinely just an all, around nice guy. Survivors include his two sons, Sam R. Gerace of The Colony, Texas, Stefan J. Gerace of Lawton, his granddaughter Isabel N. Gerace of The Colony, Texas, three sisters; Margaret Parra of Palo Alto, California, Mary Ellen Voltura and husband Danny of Batavia, New York, Catherine Hoitink and husband Tom of Batavia, New York, his brother Peter Gerace and wife Bonnie of Pelham, New Hampshire, and two brothers-in-law in Germany. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife. The burial with full military honors was held at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, Oklahoma. Memorial contributions may be made to Genesee Cancer Assistance, 127 North Street, Batavia, NY 14020. Local arrangements were entrusted to the H.E. Turner & Co. Funeral Home in Batavia, New York.



**LARRY A. GIBBS** - Died Wednesday, April 5, 2023 in Abbeville, Georgia at the age of 82. He was formerly of Rochelle, Georgia. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born in Rochelle on December 1, 1940 to the late Lam and Wynelle (née Stonecypher) Gibbs. He was a retired principal for the YDC in Americus, and was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. Larry was a member of the Wilcox County American Legion Post #71, the VFW in Hawkinsville, a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Fitzgerald Chapter #1082** and the Rochelle Masonic Lodge #190 receiving his 50-year membership award. He was also a member of the Albany Shrine Temple, and was a United States Army Veteran, and a member of the Army National Guard and the United States Air Force Reserves. Larry had earned his Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Valdosta State University and was the Superintendent of the Wilcox County School System for 16 years, and was a former chemistry, physics, and math teacher at Fullington Academy, and former principal of the Rochelle Elementary School. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Lane and Max Gibbs. Survivors include his wife, Faye Gibbs; his sons, Nathan Gibbs (Dawn), and Michael Gibbs; his daughters, Lisa Harden (Stevie), and Lynn Young (Craig); his ten grandchildren, Gracey Gibbs, Noah Gibbs, Ansley Harden, Abigail Harden, Anna Carol Harden, Jessi Young, Chase Young (Macy), Zach Gibbs (Summer), Cole Gibbs (Tracy), and Cal Young; and his two great-grandchildren, Cason and Ellie James. A private graveside service was held in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, with

Reverend David Clark officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to the American Legion Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 461, Abbeville, GA 31001. The Frazier and Son Funeral and Cremation Services was in charge of the arrangements.



**COLIN GRAY** - Died Friday, March 31, 2023 at Cornerstone Hospice House in The Villages, Florida at the age of 74. The cause of death is unknown. Colin was born in Aberdeen, Scotland on November 16, 1948 and moved to the United States as a child. After graduating from Willowbrook High School in Villa Park, IL, he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division arriving in Vietnam with the Golden Brigade. Upon his return, he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and was a Police Officer with the Lombard Police Department before knee injuries led to a career change. He then earned his Master of Arts Degree in Elementary Education and was a teacher at Spring Hills School in Roselle, IL for 22 years before his retirement. It was during his police career that he met his wife, Kristine. They married in 1974 and raised a daughter, Kimberlee. They lived most of their lives in Lombard, IL before retiring to The Villages, FL in 2020. Colin was an avid reader who loved to golf, garden, and scuba dive. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to everyone without question. Colin was an active member of the Chicago Chapter 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Oxford Chapter #1036 in The Villages**. Colin is survived by his wife of 49 years, Kristine, daughter Kimberlee Gray-Kaliski (David), grandchildren Haylee and Ian Kaliski and brothers Douglas (Patricia) and Glen (Suzanne) as well as many others who loved him. A Celebration of Life Service was held at Lake Deaton United Methodist Church in The Villages, FL on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM and at First United Methodist Church in Lombard, IL on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. A private military internment was held at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to: Cornerstone Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation at [www.cornerstonehospice.org/the-foundation/](http://www.cornerstonehospice.org/the-foundation/).



**MERVIN WAYNE GREENE** (USA, LTC-Ret.) - Died on Monday, January 2, 2023 in Brandon, Florida at the age of 82. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on February 22, 1940. He is survived by his wife, Rita. He served in the United States Army with two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Silver Star for heroism. He retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Riverview Chapter #787**. A visitation for Mervin was held on Sunday, January 15, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Hillsboro Memorial Funeral Home, 2323 West Brandon Boulevard, Brandon, FL. A committal service was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 1:30

PM at the Florida National Cemetery, 6502 SW 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Bushnell, Florida. In lieu of flowers contributions in Mervin's memory may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America, 8719 Colesville Road, Suite #100, Silver Springs, MD 20910 US, [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org). Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.HillsboroMemorial.com](http://www.HillsboroMemorial.com) for the Greene family.

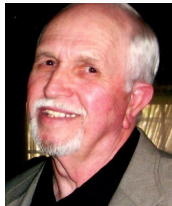


**RUTH ANN GREGORI** - Died Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at home in Penfield, Pennsylvania at the age of 74, on March 22, 2023 after an extensive battle with cancer. She was born on April 8, 1948 in DuBois, Pennsylvania to the late Donald George and America Ruth (née Webb) Colbey. On April 15, 1968 she married Louis M. Gregori, who survives at home. Along with her husband, Ruth is survived by: two children, Louis M. Gregori, Jr. of Penfield and Victoria D. (Deric) Case of State College; two grandchildren, Joshua and Carissa Case; and a brother, Jeffrey (Gena) Colbey of Penfield. Besides her parents, Ruth was preceded in death by: a brother, Donald Colbey and a sister, Donna in infancy. Ruth was a member of the following associations: DuBois Area Historical Society President – 11 years (Ruth was honored and proud that the DuBois Area Historical Society was given the lead to plan the 150<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the founding of the City of DuBois); Penfield Public Election Services – 11 years; Huston Township Route 153 Veterans Memorial Bridge Dedication Committee – 2015; Huston Township Alumni Scholarship Committee; Huston Township Cemetery Committee; Bennett's Valley Senior Center – where she enjoyed Tuesday afternoon Bingo; *Life Member* of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America - Bucktail (Saint Marys) Chapter #720**, and; Bennett's Valley American Legion Post 978 Auxiliary. Ruth was the author of a column titled "Mementoes of Valley Life" published in the Bennett's Valley News. After Ruth retired she began researching her Mayflower family lineage. Her Mayflower Society membership application was approved in 2023 after 5 years of compiling documents required for acceptance. During her spare time, she enjoyed crafting, occasionally, involving her sister-in-law Gena. She gifted her completed projects. Ruth enjoyed being co-pilot during Jeep trips on Penfield backroads escaping to the woods to recharge. She lived all her life in Penfield. There was no public visitation. The family received friends from 9:00–10:00 AM on Monday, March 27, 2023 at the Saint Joseph Catholic Church of Force, PA. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:00 AM on Monday, March 27, 2023 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church of Force, PA with Reverend Father Mark Mastrian as celebrant. The interment took place in the church cemetery. The family suggested memorials to the DuBois Area Historical Society, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #720 of Dagus Mines, PA or the Penfield Volunteer Fire Department – and will be accepting online condolences at [www.nedzafamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.nedzafamilyfuneralhomes.com).



**ROBERT W. GUYANT** - Died Tuesday, March 21, 2023 of Park Falls, Wisconsin at the age of 71, with his loving family by his side on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the Marshfield Medical Center in Marshfield, Wisconsin. The cause of death is unknown. Robert was born on May 4, 1951

in Iola, Wisconsin to the late Wakefield and Evelyn (née Akey) Guyant. He was part of the 1970 graduating class from PJ Jacobs in Stevens Point, WI. Following high school Robert joined the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War. He served from October 1970 to August 1972. Robert married the love of his life, Kathleen Guyant, on May 5, 1972 at Saint Boniface in De Pere, WI. Robert worked for the State of Wisconsin in the maintenance department for 20 years retiring in March of 2011. Robert was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Wisconsin Rapids Chapter #101**. Robert enjoyed spending time in the great outdoors. Whether that was going for walks, hunting or fishing. He also was a big fan of NASCAR. Robert's favorite joy in life was his family, he especially enjoyed spending as much time as he could with his grandchildren. Robert is survived by his wife, Kathleen Guyant; sons, Scott (Valerie) Guyant, Joe (Jessica) Guyant; grandchildren, Wakefield, Gryphon, Kaden, Kaya; sister, Bea (Chuck) Dombrowski; brother, George Guyant (Joan) and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Elizabeth Guyant and sister, Marge Ross. A funeral service was held on Friday, May 19, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Ritchay Funeral Home in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Visitation was held from 11:00 AM until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, please plant a tree in Robert's memory or make a monetary donation to the Vietnam Veterans of America. The Ritchay Funeral Home assisted the family with the arrangements.



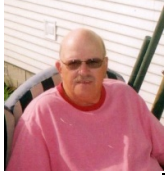
**RONALD EUGENE "Ron" "Ronnie" HEAD** - Died Sunday, March 19, 2023 in Hermitage, Tennessee at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. Ronnie was born on October 19, 1943 at home in Walton County, Monroe, Georgia to the late Joel W. and Cora Mae (née Harper) Head. He was raised in rural Fulton County Georgia by two God-Fearing but proud parents. He and his siblings didn't have a lot and wondered what a "water closet" was but they were taught to respect others, treat them as you would like to be treated and strive to be a person of integrity. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of fifteen but didn't really live Christ like until he met Nancy, the love of his life in 1971. After their marriage in 1972, Nancy worked tirelessly teaching him how to walk to Christ. Now Ronnie has comfort in knowing his four children have accepted Jesus as well. Ron graduated from Campbell High School, Fairburn Georgia in 1961. In 1965 he received a special greeting from President Lyndon B. Johnson asking him to join the United States Army. Ron proudly served in the Army Aviation as aircraft mechanic and crew chief in Fort Rucker Alabama, Godman AAF Fort Knox Kentucky and Cu Chi, Republic of Vietnam where he was twice awarded The Air Medal for participating in more than fifty aerial missions over hostile territory. Ronald was a member of Victory Baptist Church, Mount Juliet, Tennessee. He was veteran of the United States Army, a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lebanon Chapter #1004** and a member of Tyler Cates American Legion Post #281; also, the fraternal organization of Masonic Mason and Scottish Rite Mason. Ron's greatest achievement? Finding and marrying the Love of His Life, Nancy! His most memorable moments? Holding his (each) newborn child for the first time. His greatest desire? To know each of his family members know and walk with Jesus Christ. Favorite verse: "let brotherly love continue. Do not



forget to entertain strangers, for by doing, some have unwittingly entertained angels.” Hebrews 13: 1-2 He was preceded in death by parents, Joel W. and Cora Mae (Harper) Head; siblings, Kenneth Head and Brenda Mae Head Fronebarger. He is survived by his devoted and loving wife, Nancy Head; his children, Rhonda (Mick) VanBuskirk, Scott (Keri) Head, Michael Head and Joel (Valarie) Head; his grandchildren, Chase (Natalie) Wilson, Cole Wilson, Paige Head, Emma Loeser, Lacey Head, Brayden Head, Gavin Benner, Linkin Benner; his great-grandchildren, Yari Menendez and Joseph Gabriel Wilson, and; his siblings, Evelyn (Fay) Shubert, and David (Debbie) Head. Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at the Bond Memorial Chapel with Dr. Chuck Groover, officiating. The interment with military honors was at 1:00 PM at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery. Flowers accepted or memorials may be made to Victory Baptist Church for Missions or to Samaritan’s Purse. Visitation was at 9:00 AM until service time on Thursday at the Bond Memorial Chapel, North Mount Juliet Road and Weston Drive, Mount Juliet, TN. [www.bondmemorial.com](http://www.bondmemorial.com).



**EDWARD E. HEPLER, SR.** - Died Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center-Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the age of 91. He was a resident of Ridgway, Pennsylvania. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 9, 1930 in Vandergrift, Pennsylvania to the late Donald and Iva (née Learn) Hepler. He married Barbara J. Krajefski on April 29, 2017 and she survives. He resided in Powell, TN for many years before relocating to Ridgway. He was a *Life Member* of the VFW, the DAV, and the **Vietnam Veterans of America – Knoxville (Tennessee) Chapter #1078**. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling, watching westerns on TV, and spending time with his family. He was a graduate of Vandergrift High School. He served in the United States Army and was a veteran of the Vietnam War where he was a POW for one year. He retired from the U.S. Army after 23 years having worked in communications. He is survived by his wife Barbara J. Hepler of Ridgway, and the following children: Sonja L. (Robert) Martin of Cache, OK, Cyndi J. Ryker of West Columbia, SC, Patricia A. Nunley (Ken Johnson) of Ridgway, Edward E. (Lisa) Hepler, Jr. of Knoxville, TN, Janet C. (Larry) Good of Olathe, KS, Jeff A. Hepler of Knoxville, TN, Jenny F. (John) Carr of Sevierville, TN, Scott Carino of St. Petersburg, FL, Becky J. (Sherman) Branum of Karns, TN; multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren; one brother John (Helen) Hepler of Ridgway; one sister Nancy Johnston of Delaware, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, three wives, and two sons, Michael and Ronny D. Hepler. A Memorial Service for Edward E. Hepler, Sr. was held at the Thompson Funeral Home on Friday, April 29, 2022 at 11:00 AM with Military Honors accorded by the Ridgway Servicemen’s Burial Detail. Officiating was Reverend Ronald L. Burkett, Pastor of the Hallton Church. The burial was at the Parklawn Memorial Gardens. There was no visitation. Memorials, if desired, can be made to the Ridgway Ambulance Corps. Share your online condolences at [thompsonfuneralhomepa.com](http://thompsonfuneralhomepa.com).



**ORVILLE JUNIOR HILL** - Died Sunday, March 26, 2023 at home in Levering, Michigan at the age of 80. The cause of death was a heart attack. Orville was born on August 8, 1942 in Flint, Michigan to the late Orville Lee and Violet (née Yager) Hill. He grew up in Flint and went to Beacher High School. Orville married Mary Ginop on August 2, 1969 at Saint Charles Catholic Church in Cheboygan. He served in the United States Army for 8 years and was an active *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Cheboygan Chapter #274** and the VVA Color Guard. Orville spent most of his working life at the paper mill in Cheboygan operating a forklift and other general labor work. He enjoyed reading, fishing and hunting. Orville is survived by his wife, Mary; his son, Neil; his daughter Lisa; his grandchildren, Storm (Russ Harms) Hill, Emily Hill, Gabe Parker, Rhys Parker, brother William Hill, and; his sister, Sandra Rogers. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Judith Hill. The family was served by the Nordman-Christian Funeral Home of Cheboygan.



**THOMAS WILLIAM JENKINS, JR.** - Died Friday, February 17, 2023 at Novant Health Systems – University of Virginia-Culpeper Hospital at the age of 70. He was a resident of Boston, Virginia. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on May 12, 1952 in Fauquier County, Virginia to the late Thomas William Jenkins, Sr. and Lucille Jenkins. Thomas was a Vietnam-Era Army veteran. He was a proud *Life Member* of the Piedmont Area **Vietnam Veterans of America – Culpepper Chapter #752**. Thomas enjoyed gardening, camping and fishing and just being outdoors. Thomas loved his family and was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan. He is survived by his children, Victor T. Jenkins, Anthony J. Jenkins, and Alexander M. Jenkins (Rena); his fondest partner and friend, Vicky K. Jenkins; two grandchildren, Delilah Jenkins and Zaiden Jenkins; one sister, JoAnn Jenkins; one brother, Ernie Jenkins; and numerous family members. In addition to his parents, Thomas is preceded in death by one brother, Franklin Jenkins. No services were planned. An online guestbook and tribute wall are available at [www.foundandsons.com](http://www.foundandsons.com). The Found and Sons Funeral Chapel of Culpeper served the family.

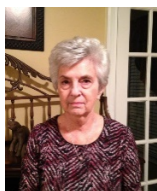


**JOHN RICHARD "Ricky" JOHNSON** - Died Friday, April 21, 2023 in Forsyth, Georgia at the age of 71. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Forsyth on January 23, 1952 to the late Lecil and Sydney (née Bass) Johnson. Ricky enjoyed camping and riding his motorcycle, was always happy to help his fellow man. He was a proud United States Marine serving during the Vietnam War and was a dedicated *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Forsyth Chapter #946**. Ricky was a long time and faithful member of Maynard Baptist Church where he

made many friends. Ricky is survived by his wife, Vickie Johnson of Forsyth, Georgia, two daughters Angie Stripling of Moultrie, Georgia and Donna Beard of Forsyth, Georgia, sister Karen Counts of Uvalda, Georgia, Sister-in-law Jackie Johnson of Juliette, Georgia, grandchildren Christopher Mullis, Chelsea Simmons, Taylor Horne, Slade Horne, great-grandchildren Sammy, Sophia and Noah, nieces and nephews and his loving pet Cali. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brother Ronnie Johnson. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 with full military honors at Maynard Baptist Church 1195 Juliette Road, Forsyth, Georgia with The Reverend Matthew Bishop officiated. The family greeted friends one hour prior to the service. The interment was at 1:00 PM at the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 2617 Vinson Highway, Milledgeville, Georgia. Flowers were accepted or donations to The American Cancer Society, 804 Cherry Street, Macon, Georgia 31201 or [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). To express your condolences please visit our website [www.monroecountymemorialchapel.com](http://www.monroecountymemorialchapel.com) Monroe County Memorial Chapel, 86 West Main Street, Forsyth Georgia was in charge of the arrangements.



**LEONARD EUGENE KEELE** (USN, MCPO-Ret.) – Died Sunday, March 12, 2023 in The Villages, Florida at the age of 84. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Sedalia Pettis, Missouri on July 6, 1937. He served in the United States Navy and retired at the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9). He served two tours of duty in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Oxford Chapter #1036**.



**HARRIETT P. "Beth" KELLNER** - Died Friday, March 31, 2023 in Gainesville, Georgia at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. Beth was born in Cookeville, Tennessee on April 27, 1943 to the late John Smith Pointer and Mildred Norma (née Gentry) Pointer. Beth was a loving homemaker. She is preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Patricia Pointer and brother, James McKay Pointer. Beth is survived by her husband Ron Kellner; daughter, Lisa Carmichael; daughter and son-in-law Rhonda (Tim) Call; sister, Barbara Brite; grandchildren, Lindsey Fonte and Drew (Kristen) Carmichael; great-grandchildren, Emerson and Sydney; five nephews; one niece, and family companion and friend, Davine Campbell. She was a *Life Member* of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Gainesville Chapter #772**. Funeral Services were scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 3:00 PM at the Lakewood Baptist Church. Reverend Dr. Tyler Smiley and Reverend Dr. Tom Smiley co-officiated the services. The family received friends at the Lakewood Baptist Church, 2235 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville, Georgia on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 from 1:00 until 3:00 PM. The interment was in the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia at a later date. The family accepted flowers, or donations made in Beth's name to the Lakewood Baptist Church. Memorial Park North Riverside Chapel, 989 Riverside Drive,

Gainesville, Georgia was in charge of the arrangements. For online condolences [www.memorialparkfuneralhomes.com](http://www.memorialparkfuneralhomes.com).



**VIRGINIA NELL "Ginger" KIECKER** - Died Tuesday, March 21, 2023 in Gallatin, Tennessee at the age of 81, with her husband at her side. She was born in Nashville, Tennessee on October 17, 1941 to the late Roe J. and Bertha Mae Bolton. Mrs. Ginger is survived by her devoted husband of nearly 50 years, Ronald Kiecker. Ginger and her husband, Ron have been faithful members of Rock of Ages Evangelical Lutheran Church in Madison, TN, for many years. She was a *Life Member* of Associates of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Gallatin Chapter #240**. A singer in the entertainment industry in her younger days, Ginger made several appearances in Vietnam with the USO tour featuring Bob Hope. Her sparkling personality would brighten any arena. Her loving heart and caring nature will be dearly missed. A Memorial Service for Mrs. Ginger Kiecker was held on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at Rock of Ages Evangelical Lutheran Church, 741 East Campbell Road, Madison, TN.



**STEPHEN PHILLIP "Steve" KLINKHAMMER** - Died Thursday, March 9, 2023 at home in Racine, Wisconsin at the age of 68, after several bouts of COVID-19, pneumonia and inoperable lung cancer. Stephen was born in Racine on October 10, 1954 to the late Phillip H. and Faythe (née Newton) Klinkhammer. Stephen was raised in Hancock, Michigan and graduated from Hancock High School in 1972. Stephen joined the United States Navy out of high school and served two tours in Vietnam. He was on the USS America (CVA66) in the Gulf of Tonkin when the war ended in 1973, and served again with Surgical Team 6, attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Marines for the evacuation of refugees from Saigon in the spring and summer of 1975 setting up refugee camps and providing care for them in camps from the Philippines to Guam. After being honorably discharged in June 1976, Stephen attended UW Madison and UW Parkside obtaining a degree in Psychology and Interpersonal Communication. He interned at the Racine Underground Safe House (RUSH) where he met his bride-to-be. Stephen worked as a counselor until returning to the medical profession and becoming a registered nurse in 1981. His nursing career spanned 47 years and lead him to becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist in 1995. A proud Mayo School of Health Sciences graduate Stephen worked in numerous anesthesia settings from government and military to academic and private practice. Stephen went on to obtain degrees in Management, a Master of Business Administration, Master of Nurse Anesthesia, and a Nursing Doctorate. Stephen was a nationally recognized assimilationist and taught new generations of nurse anesthetists the tricks of the trade at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science as well as across the country via multiple conferences. One of his proudest achievements was being elected to the Board of Directors of the National Board for Certification and Recertification

of Nurse Anesthetists. Stephen married Rita Helen Bencriscutto on May 6, 1978, and together they produced four boys, Justin, Adam and identical twins Jordan and Zachary. Stephen was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip and Faythe, his brother Paul, his son Adam, granddaughter, Harmony and in-laws, Santo and Mary Bencriscutto. Stephen was an accomplished musician and had been involved in the Racine music scene for over 40 years. Stephen was a co-founder of Thoughts for Food™, a benefit for the Racine County Food Bank. Stephen also co-founded a long running food event food event making and selling Pasty (a Flemish pastry with veggie and meat filling) with proceeds supporting local veterans and the Racine County Food Bank. Stephen was an active member of the veteran's community with life memberships in the VFW Post #9948, *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Racine Chapter #767* and the Wisconsin Association of Concerned Veterans. He is Past Commander of VFW Post #9948 and Past President of Racine Area Veterans, Inc. Stephen was involved in the recent rehabilitation of the Racine Legacy Museum and Veterans Museum, bringing this historic landmark back to a rendition of its glory days. Stephen was devoted to his family, his community, and the world at large. Number two was never good enough when number one was open. Science meant everything and Stephen based his decisions on the available facts. A somewhat difficult individual to get to know, first impressions always led to discovering the big teddy bear underneath that was willing to give all to make the world a better place. If there was a poster child for a dry sense of humor, Stephen would have been it. Stephen is survived by his wife of 44 years Rita, his three sons, Justin, Jordan and Zachary, daughter-in-law Chris Fabio, Deanna Vorhes, Sammi Vorhes, grandchildren, Destiny Klinkhammer, Faith Klinkhammer, Deacon Klinkhammer, great- grandson, Henry Marquis, brother, Eric Klinkhammer, sister-in-law, Gail Klinkhammer and sister, Susan Studebaker, In-laws, Frank and Darlene Fabio, best friends, Bill May, Rick Fink, and John Bowen, and of course his crazy, huge silver lab, Mia. Also surviving are brothers and sisters-in-law Bruce and DeDe Bencriscutto and Bill and Thanh Bencriscutto, nieces, nephews, and friends worldwide. A private service was held on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. The service was live-streamed on the funeral home's web page, select Stephen's page and select live-stream. The interment with Military Honors was held at the Southeast Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

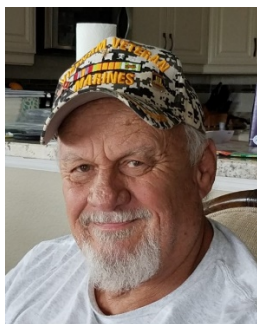


**THOMAS JOHN KOWALSKI** (USAF, TSGT-Ret.) – Died Tuesday, February 22, 2022 in Prisma Health Creer Memorial Hospital in Greer, South Carolina at the age of 77. He was a resident of Taylors, South Carolina. The causes of death were Diabetes Mellitus-Type II, Hypertension due to Agent Orange exposure, acute hypoxic respiratory failure secondary to acute respiratory distress syndrome, acute respiratory distress syndrome secondary to diverticulitis with abdominal abscess and sepsis. He was born in Rome, New York on June 17, 1944 to the late Stephen Kowalski and Mary (née Schram) Kowalski. He is survived by wife, Charlotte (née O'Neil) Kowalski. He served in the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1981 during the Vietnam War. He retired at the rank of Tech Sergeant (E-7). He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Greenville Chapter #523*. He was cremated.





**ALLEN W. "Big Al" KOWALSKY** - Died Saturday, February 18, 2023 in Alexander, North Carolina at the age of 77, after a relentless fight against cancer. Al was born on January 25, 1946 to the late Howard and Alice Kowalsky. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force where he served as a munitions handler in Vietnam. He met Susan in 1968, married in less than four months and they were together for over 54 years. Al left behind three daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Al was a determined and hard-working man who loved God and his family fiercely. His family meant more to him than anything, as he would constantly brag on his daughters and grandchildren. Al was meticulous with construction, and he never found a project he couldn't master. He rode motorcycles for over 60 years; he also enjoyed weight-lifting, scuba diving, cycling, camping, fishing and everything else outdoors. He could often be found riding the winding roads of the Blue Ridge or camping at an Armed Forces Base with his beloved dog. At home he enjoyed mowing, fixing things and keeping up with his 'man crew'. Al was committed to supporting his fellow veterans, whether it be as an active *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Black Mountain Chapter #124**, many rides to DC for Rolling Thunder or bringing "The Wall That Heals" to Asheville, NC. Anyone who knew Al, knew that he was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. On Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM there was a Celebration of Life at the North Point Baptist Church, Weaverville, NC, Followed by a reception at the Weaverville Community Center (at Lake Louise), 60 Lakeshore Drive, Weaverville, NC 28787. The interment was a private ceremony at the Western Carolina State Veteran's Cemetery, 962 Old US Highway 70, Black Mountain, NC on a separate date. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to one of the following charities or your favorite: North Point Baptist Church, 119 Monticello Road, Weaverville, NC 28787 or The Scholarship Fund of the Vietnam NC 28803. Donations should be made out to "CFWNC" with the following on the memo line: "CPT John Gardner Scholarship Fund".



**MICHAEL "Mike" KUZIW** - Died Monday, April 10, 2023 in The Villages, Florida at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Aschaffenburg, Germany on December 10, 1946 to the late William and Anna (née Szegda) Kuziw. Aside from English, Mike spoke multiple languages including Ukrainian and Polish and understood but was not fluent in Russian. Michael was an extremely proud United States Marine who fought for our freedoms during Vietnam (1967-68). He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Oxford Chapter #1036**. After coming back from the war, he had various careers, but found real estate

was most suited to him. If you knew Mike you knew he was an unfiltered, full of fun and loving man. He loved his family over all else. He loved sports, especially the Black Hawks for hockey and the Chicago Bears for football. Being the good Villager that he was he would play a game of golf or two. He is famously known for his statement “Just give me a five” speaking of his golf strokes. He owned multiple motorcycles and was an avid biker who loved taking trips with friends and family. Mike loved animals especially dogs and birds. Mike didn't like change but adapted well every time life took a turn. Those left to mourn him include his wife Denise (née Hoecker) Kuziw, daughter, Stephanie Wink (Lee) (husband Peter), son Christopher Lee (wife Megan), and grandchildren, Brenden, Madison and Grace Lee, and best friend Harley – his bulldog. His siblings include brother, Wally Kuziw who passed away in 2020 (wife Lucille) and his sister, Mary (Kuziw) Takoy (husband Wally). Mike has many nieces and nephews. A Catholic Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, May 5, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Saint Vincent de Paul Church. The committal service was held at Florida National Cemetery after the Church service. All were welcomed back at Dignity Memorial Life Celebration Center, 7134 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL 34785 for celebration of his life. Serving as pallbearers were his nephews, Matthew Takoy and Thomas Takoy, and brothers-in-law, Paul Hoecker and Jude Hoecker. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.DignityMemorialWildwood.com](http://www.DignityMemorialWildwood.com) for the Kuziw family. Instead of flowers, donations were appreciated to Wounded Warrior or Fisher House for Veterans which are Mike's favorite charities.



**RALPH EULIS LAND** - Died Friday, February 24, 2023 in Madison, Tennessee at the age of 76. The cause of death was heart failure. He was born in Saint Louis, Missouri on May 11, 1946 to the late Margaret I. and Eulis E. Land. He was also predeceased by his brother, David Neil Land. He is survived by his life partner, Cindy Tan, a brother, Harold Land, a sister, Anna McGowan and her husband Jeff, a nephew, Shaun Conner, a niece, Amy Conner, three great-nephews, Landon Kramme, Brendon Kramme and Easton Conner, and close family friends, Lan Phan and his wife, Linh Phan. Ralph's life was mostly spent as a recording musician. At the age of sixteen he had his first recording session. Shortly after graduating from Saint Louis Junior College, Ralph was drafted into the United States Army. He was shot twice in two days in heavy combat in Vietnam and subsequently was permanently retired from the military service. Upon retiring, Ralph went back to the music industry. Ralph also performed with top groups in Saint Louis and was a staff drummer for daytime ABC TV, Charlotte Peters Show. He moved to Nashville while working with Sammi Smith (Help Me Make It Through the Night). As a member of a performing band called The Sideman, he worked with artists that did not have their own band. He was later hired as the drummer and toured with George Jones and the Jones Boys. After departing from George Jones in 1980, Ralph had his own group, Studio Three. He later moved to Los Angeles with movie score productions. Finally, in 1981, Ralph was forced into retirement from the music industry when his disabilities from Vietnam began affecting him. During his journey through his disability, he began helping other veterans through similar disabilities. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America - Nashville Chapter #953**, in Nashville, Tennessee,

where he began to meet more veterans like him. He became devoted to Veterans Serving Veterans, Inc. He was also affiliated with; Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 45, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #240 (which he helped start), Legislative Chairman, Tennessee State Council, VIP President for The Community Partnership Program (We Honor Americans), participant in the Committee to finalize Agent Orange Legislation (passed), Lifetime Member of the Military Order of The Purple Heart VFW NCOA DAV, Member of the State Council and Past Legislative Director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, President and founder of The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #953 in Nashville, Tennessee, 6<sup>th</sup> District Commander, DAV and Chapter Service Office, President for Vietnam Veterans of Nashville Foundation, Vice President for The Community Partnership Program (We Honor Veterans), Commander Jerry Reed Music City AMVETS Post #176, Member of the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Vietnam Veterans of America, State Legislative Director for Disabled American Veterans, Member of the Tennessee Valley Health Care Veterans Advisory Board, Member of the Board of Directors for the Fisher House of Middle Tennessee, and the Legislative Director for The Military Order of The Purple Heart. The family invited relatives and friends to gather and share remembrances of Ralph on Friday, March 3, 2023 from twelve o'clock in the afternoon until the time of the funeral service at two o'clock in the afternoon at Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5110 Gallatin Road in Nashville. Ralph received full military honors immediately following the service. A committal service was held at a later date in Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of customary remembrances, donations can be made to the donor's choice.



**KENNETH J. LEV** – Died Friday, April 7, 2023 in Schulenburg, Texas at the age of 72.

The cause of death is unknown. He was born on May 31, 1949 to the late Johnnie and Victoria (née Janek) Lev. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1969 with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Schulenburg Chapter #870**. Kenneth is survived by sisters, Laurie Goedecker and husband Peter, Agatha Fay and husband Kennie, Vicki Daraie and husband Ken; as well as a niece, numerous nephews and extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, Johnnie and Victoria Janek Lev. Memorial services were held from the Saint Rose Catholic Church in Schulenburg on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 10:30 AM. Visitation began at the Church at 9:00 AM on Friday, with the parish rosary recited at 10:00 AM. The Schulenburg American Legion and Vietnam Veterans conducted full military honors. The entombment was in the Saint Rose Catholic Mausoleum in Schulenburg, Texas. Memorial contributions may be made to: Saint Rose Catholic Church or School, or a charity of one's choice.



**CAMILLE ANOTINETTE (née Gattuso) LONG** - Died Valentine's Day, Tuesday February 14, 2023 in Flowery Branch, Georgia at the age of 84, after a short illness. The cause of death is

unknown. She was born in Norfolk Virginia on July 2, 1938 to the late Heromina “*Hermie*” (née Massenburg) Simms and William Carmelo Gattuso of Virginia that preceded her to heaven as well as her beloved Kathryn “Aunt Ann” Massenburg Pifer, her sister Constance Gattuso Burns, and her Grandmother Lillian Constance Johnston Massenburg. Camille is survived by her caring husband of over 30 years Jacson T. Long and family. Her daughter and sons are Victoria Johnston Phelps, Jack Marshall White Phelps, Stephen Micah Baruch Felsen, James Michael Long (wife Carmen) and Joseph Scott Long (wife Amanda). She is also survived by seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Close extended family survivors include Valerie Dawn Pifer Poe, Andrew G. Burns, John F. Burns and their father David W. Burns, also by Bonnie and James Schuh (children Kathryn and Bradyn), and Mryna Blake and Maryland Baumeister. She had an infectious positive spirit. She practiced unique special ways to show those she cared for that she loved them. She demonstrated her love by acts of kindness she provided throughout her life. She enjoyed classic music, cards, poster art, exploring new places and family genealogy research. She was an expert in Virginia and American history. A proud graduate of Maury High School in Norfolk Virginia, member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and of the RedWine Eastern Star Chapter #297. She was a member of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Gainesville Chapter #772**. She was highly intelligent and a creative thinker. When called upon, she shared much wisdom with others and offered sound, cherished advice. She had a wide circle of close friends and family relatives extending from Flowery Branch, Georgia, Norfolk, Virginia, Daphne, Alabama, Miami, Florida, Carlsbad, California, Olney, Maryland and Westminster, South Carolina. If you want to know about the effect of a person's life on those around her, you need look no further than the friends, family, and loved ones she leaves behind. To be loved by Camille was to be greatly loved. Those of us that were privileged to know her were truly blessed. She was one of the most giving people you would ever want to meet. Very rarely were you able to leave her house without some type of gift or token of her love. She was a very talented person and supported many different charities and missionaries. One of her favorite causes to support were charities related to our military veterans. She and Jacson were a driving force behind many different local veteran efforts. Her contributions will be greatly missed. Always ready with a smile and a hug, she loved us all “to the moon and back”. She was truly one of a kind. We will miss her every day for the rest of our lives. The one thing about Camille that still rings true, everyone who knew and loved her always wanted just a little more of her. It’s been said that Camile could “light up a room” whenever she walked in. Now, it’s her time to provide a new “sparkle” light in heaven and shine on all of us forever and ever. God's Speed Camille! Andare Con Dio! Vaya Con Dios! A visitation or a memorial was not held at this time. A “Celebration of Life” Service was held sometime in the future. Those wishing to send online condolences to the family may do so at [www.littledavenport.com](http://www.littledavenport.com) located at Little and Davenport Funeral Home and Crematory, 355 Dawsonville Highway, SW, Gainesville, Georgia 30501. Little and Davenport are in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers the family has requested any memorial contributions to be made to the RedWine Eastern Star Chapter #297 located at 62 Lakeshore Drive NW, Gainesville Ga, 30501. To plant a tree in honor of Camille, please visit the online floral store at the Little and Davenport website above. Correspondence for the family or to contact the family use ATTN: Jacson T. Long, PO Box 700 Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542.



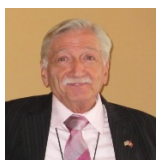
**ARLINE F. MABE** - Died Tuesday, January 17, 2023 in Roxborough, Pennsylvania at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. Arline was born on April 18, 1943 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late Arnold and Alice Federoff. She was the beloved wife of Kenneth J. Mabe for 57 years. She was the loving mother of Kristi Lee Sauder (Douglas) and Jason S. Mabe (Barbara). She was the devoted grandmother of Tyler, Kerri, Chelsea, Tyler and Jescie. She was also great-grandmother to Marissa, Emma, Anthony and Owen. Arline graduated from Temple University with a degree in early childhood education and masters of early childhood education. She dedicated her professional career to teaching preschool and kindergarten children. Her hobbies and interests included her intricate knowledge of gardening, nature, animals and all wild life. She was an avid reader and enjoyed traveling with her loving husband. She was a *Life Member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – Liberty Bell (Philadelphia) Chapter #266*. You would never find a bigger cheerleader as Grandmom was for her grandchildren. She always had a smile on her face, encouraging words, advice and kind thoughts for all. She was a beautiful soul. A Visitation was held on Monday January 23, 2023 from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Lownes Family Funeral Home, 659 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA. There was a Funeral Service at 11:00 AM at the Funeral Home following the Visitation. The interment was held immediately after the Funeral Service at Whitmarsh Memorial Park 1169 Limekiln Pike, Ambler, PA.

**MARTHA JOANNE MAKIN** (USA, LTC-Ret.) - Died Thursday, March 30, 2023 in Somerset, Pennsylvania at the age of 80. The cause of death is unknown. She was born on June 22, 1942 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to the late Edward K. and Bessie Mae (née Hockensmith) Makin. She was a 16-year lung cancer survivor. She was predeceased by her parents; husband, Arnold C. Provost; sister, Nancy L. (Makin) Hoke; and brother-in-law, Frederick M. Griffith. She is survived by her sister, Shirley M. (Makin) Griffith of Somerset; niece, Patti (Griffith) Kocsis and husband James Kocsis of New Tripoli, PA; nephew, Brian Griffith and husband Cliff Dellinger of Shermans Dale, PA; niece, Wendy (Hoke) Evenden and husband Ed Evenden of Hamburg, NY; great-nephews, Andrew Kocsis and wife Sarah; Matthew Evenden; great niece, Sara Kocsis; step-children, Christopher Provost and wife Joanne; Connie Provost; Paul Provost and wife Lisa; Stephanie (Provost) Vinditelli and husband Michael; and Diane (Provost) Mareira and husband Christopher; step-grandchildren, Michael, Arianna, Ashley, Aaron, Angelica, and Brianna; step-great granddaughter Via; an cousins and friends. A 1960 graduate of Johnstown Central HS and a Registered Nurse with a degree from Lancaster General Hospital. A United States Army Vietnam Veteran Nurse stationed at the 85<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital in Quy Nhon Vietnam in 1966-67 followed by many years in the Army Reserves achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Johnstown Chapter #364*. Retired from the PA Department of Health. A special thank you to Randee and Dave Ankeny of Somerset, Dr. Rashid Awan of the Hillman Cancer Center, the staff of Interim Hospice Services, and the staff of the Patriot Nursing Home. Family received friends on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 AM until the time of the service at 11:30 AM at the Hindman Funeral Homes and Crematory, Inc., 1521



Frankstown Road. The committal was at Benshoff Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to: Grace United Methodist Church, 320 Felgar Road, Somerset, PA 15501 or Veteran Community Initiatives, Inc. 727 Goucher Street, Johnstown, PA 15905. The arrangements were in the care of the Hindman Funeral Homes and Crematory, Inc., "Exclusive Provider of Veterans and Family Memorial Care." Condolences may be made at [HindmanFuneralHomes.com](http://HindmanFuneralHomes.com).

**MICHAEL JOHN MARKS** – Died Thursday, April 20, 2023 in Sierra Vista, Arizona at the age of 80. The cause of death was congestive heart failure and pneumonia. He was born in Renville, Minnesota on April 7, 1943. He served in the United States Navy with a tour of duty in Da Nang, Vietnam from June 1968 to December 1969. He had also served in the Arctic with the Navy but when asked for a warmer climate, was sent to Vietnam. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Mesa Chapter #1011**. In VVA he served from the early days of its inception helping to write the Constitution. He was for a time the State Council President of Minnesota.



**NICHOLAS L. "Nick" MAZZELLA** - Died Wednesday morning, April 19, 2023 in Staten Island, New York at the age of 75, surrounded by his children and loved ones. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on March 28, 1948. Nicholas was a United States Marine, and a Vietnam War Veteran who lead a life of service to his country, his church, and his community. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Staten Island Chapter #421**. He was a man who took pride in the lives he touched, the friendships he built, and the children he raised. He will be remembered for his kindness, his wisdom, his humor, and most importantly, his love. He is survived by his wife, Vicki, and his two children, Anthony and Nicole. He is deeply loved and will be missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him. The world is diminished by his passing. In lieu of flowers Donations would be greatly appreciated in memory of Nicholas L. Mazzella to the Marine Corp League or AMVETS.

**JOHN F. McGOWAN** – Died Tuesday, February 14, 2023 in Vernon, New Jersey at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 24, 1943. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Vernon Chapter #1002**.



**RONALD W. "Ron" MILLER** - Died Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 12:57 PM at the Lutheran Downtown Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the age of 72. He was a resident of Celina, Ohio. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 28, 1949 in Celina to the late Don and Betty (née Archer) Miller. On October 16, 2009 he married Deborah A. (née Muether) Miller and she survives in Celina. Ron is also survived by two daughters, Lisa (Scott) Cluckey, Celina and Nicole (Doug) Ritchie, Celina; a brother, Gary (Sylvia) Miller, Englewood, Ohio; and six grandchildren, Cody, Sydney, Alex, Jeri, Haley and Emily. Ron was a 1967 graduate of Mendon-

Union High School. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, where he served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He has worked for the past 30 at the Celina American Legion. He was a member of Celina Moose and Celina Eagles Aerie #1291 and a life member of Celina VFW Post #5713 and Celina American Legion Post # 210, where he served as a past commander. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Celina Chapter #783**. Ron enjoyed gambling, playing cornhole, grilling, watching racing and most of all spending time with his family and friends. A gathering of family and friends took place on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 from 2:00–7:00 PM at the Cisco Funeral Home in Celina. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 10:30 AM at the Cisco Funeral Home in Celina with Reverend Jeff Gramza officiating; where the family received friends from 9:30-10:30 AM before the service. The burial was at the Mercer Memory Gardens in Celina with military rites conducted by the Celina American Legion Post #210 and VFW Post #5713. Memorial contributions can be made to Wounded Warrior Project. The Cisco Funeral Homes of Celina and Saint Marys were honored to care for Ron and his family. To pay respects and to leave online condolences or memories, visit [www.ciscofuneralhome.com](http://www.ciscofuneralhome.com) or Cisco Funeral Home Facebook page.



**THOMAS A. “Tom” MONK** – Died Friday, February 3, 2023 in Greece, New York at the age of 75, surrounded by his wife and two daughters. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Rochester, New York on October 6, 1947 to the late Alfred and Jean Monk. He is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Patricia A. Monk; loving daughters, Leslie (Aaron) Allen and Jessica (Joe) DiBattisto; grandchildren, Carson, Peyton, Madison and Mason; sister, Bonnie Jansen; brother-in-law, Jim (Sue) Mortillaro; dear friend, Scott Helfer; nieces, nephews. Tom was a proud veteran of the United States Army and served our Country during the Vietnam War where he was awarded three purple hearts for his valor. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20**. He loved his dog, Gizmo; enjoyed traveling with his wife and family, especially to Aruba. He loved sunshine, good music and ice cold beer. He was a devoted husband, father and papa and will be deeply missed. The family would like to extend their appreciation and gratitude to University of Rochester Hospice Care, Melissa, Josh, Joann and Elaine; his private nurses, Laurie and Jess; Michelle Lezo and team of caregivers for the compassion and care given to Tom. Tom’s Military Honor’s service was celebrated Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the Chapel of Riverside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Disabled American Veterans ([www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)) or American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) in his memory. For more information and to sign his online guestbook, visit [www.meesonfamily.com](http://www.meesonfamily.com).

**PHILIP KEITH MULADORE** - Died Saturday, January 7, 2023 in Tavares, Florida at the age of 79. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on June 1, 1943. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Oxford Chapter #1036**. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.neptunesociety.com/location/ocala-cremation](http://www.neptunesociety.com/location/ocala-cremation) for the Muladore family.



**DANIEL “Dan” NUSSBAUM II** - Died Wednesday, March 1, 2023 in Brighton, New York at the age of 81, with his family by his side. He was formerly of Rochester, New York and Saint Louis Park, Minnesota. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Irvington, New Jersey on August 23, 1941 to the late David and Bella (née Teplitzky) Nussbaum. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years Alice (née Rosenthal) Nussbaum, his children Yapha (Steve) Mason and Joe (Abby) Nussbaum, his adored grandchildren Eve and Leo, and the 472 far-flung family members he painstakingly tracked down and united over the years. Dan devoted his life to taking care of people, from his beloved family to the countless children he helped in his over 40 years as a pediatrician, to the Jewish communities he was grateful to be part of. He attended the University of Pennsylvania where he met Alice in Biology Lab. He graduated from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University and then served in the United States Air Force in Minot, ND. After his discharge, he moved to the Twin Cities where he was instrumental in the passage of the law requiring child safety seats in Minnesota. His thirst for knowledge led him to pursue a fellowship in the burgeoning field of Developmental Pediatrics, where he was among the first wave of doctors helping children with a variety of learning differences. He continued his medical career in Brockport, NY and New Bedford, MA before returning to Rochester to enjoy his retirement. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Rochester Chapter #20**. Dan delighted in the studies of names and linguistics. He collected the phrase “Give Me Five” in over 100 languages, which started as a way to connect with non-English speaking patients. He shared his love of esoteric information and Judaica with anyone who was interested (and also those who weren’t). He took pride in being a Yekkey — always on time and organized. Funeral Services were held on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the main sanctuary at Temple Beth El, 139 Winton Road South. A procession followed to the Stone Road Cemetery. For those unable to attend in person, the service can be viewed at <https://www.tberochester.org/live-stream/>. The family will sit Shiva on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon at Temple Beth El of Rochester. In lieu of flowers or a donation, you can honor Dan’s memory by reaching out to a cousin or family member you have lost touch with.

**PATRICK THOMAS “Rick” OLIVER** - Died Sunday, April 23, 2023 at Adventist Health in Sonora, California at the age of 72. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on February 18, 1950 in California. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Sonora Chapter #391**. The Terzich and Wilson Cremation-Funeral Home were entrusted with the Cremation arrangements.



**STEPHEN J. PEREZ, SR.** (USA, LTC-Ret.) - Died Thursday, February 23, 2023 in Suwanee, Georgia at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on May 4, 1945, in Atlantic City, New Jersey to the late Dr. John F. Perez, Sr. and Lydia Ann Perez. He was also predeceased by his oldest brother, Dr. John F. Perez, Jr. He is survived by his loving wife, Wanda Perez of 25 years, married June 21, 1997; his brothers, Dr. Robert Perez, Dr. Jimmy Perez, and Dr. Michael Perez and their families; his son, Stephen Perez, daughter-in-law Nancy Perez, and grandchildren, Dawson Perez, Avery Elliott, Gavyn Perez, and Abigail Elliott; his son, James Branch Mosely, daughter-in-law Katelyn Mosely, and grandchildren Avery Brown and Stella Grace Mosely. As a Vietnam War veteran and purple heart recipient, he served the United States Army in both an active and reserved capacity. He was extremely proud of those who protect and have served the United States of America. He was an *At-Large Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Georgia**. He was an avid ham radio operator and loved spending time on the water. His willingness to help and eagerness to please was endless. He loved us as much as we love him. He will always be remembered as a loving brother, husband, and our Pops. There was a graveside service at the Georgia National Military Cemetery in Canton, Georgia on March 30, 2023 at 1:30 PM. Following there was a memorial service at 3:30 PM at the First Redeemer Church, 2100 Peachtree Parkway, Cumming, Georgia.



**DENNIS CHARLES PETERSON** - Died Tuesday, May 16, 2023 of Norway, Michigan at the age of 75, after a courageous battle with cancer at the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Dennis was born on June 18, 1947 in Norway to the late Omar and Eleanore (née Bjornson) Peterson. He graduated from Norway High School class of 1965. He was drafted into the United States Army on July 6, 1966, where he served in Vietnam until July 5, 1968. Dennis married Beth Ann Corrigan on June 14, 1969, at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Spalding. They spent 51 wonderful years together before she preceded him in death on March 29, 2021. Dennis worked at the Niagara Paper Mill for 32 years until his retirement. He worked at the City of Norway as a fireman, also as a wildfire keyman for the Department of Natural Resources for over 40 years. He was a *Life Member* of the **Vietnam Veterans of America - Thomas Saint Onge (Hermansville) Chapter #571**, Norvulet VFW Post #4581 and the Hall-Dewinter Post #145 American Legion in Norway. He was passionate about helping other veterans access needed services and his family was extremely important to him. Dennis is survived by his son, Dennis (Mary) Peterson; daughter, Sarah (Mark) Thaler; granddaughters Kassandra (Andrew) Rajala, Patricia (David) Woller; grandsons, Michael Peterson and Matthew Peterson; great-grandchildren, Aubree Peterson, Elloise Rajala and one due in August; brother, Jack Peterson; sister, Luanne (Gary Ebrecht) Peterson; mother-in-law, Jeanne Corrigan; brothers-in-law, Ivan Hammerberg, Dick (Linda) Corrigan, Boyd (Sue) Corrigan, Bill (Shar) Corrigan, Don

(Janet) Corrigan and Tom (Geri) Corrigan; sisters-in-law, Joyce (Leo) Labre and Ruth Blahnik; numerous nieces and nephews; and cousin who was like a brother, Michael (Judy) Dapoz. Dennis was predeceased by sisters-in-law, Yvonne Peterson, Patricia Lemerand and Barbara Hammerberg; brother-in-law, Gordon Lemerand; nephews, Travis Corrigan and Thomas Corrigan Jr. The family greeted friends on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at Saint Mary Church in Norway. A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Thursday at 11:00 AM at the church with Reverend Father Marty Flynn officiating. The interment was in the Norway Township Cemetery. The family would like to say Thank you to the staff and members of the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center for all their kindness. Condolences to the family of Dennis may be expressed online at [www.ortmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com). The arrangements were made with the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.



**JUDGE OSBORNE EUGENE "Gene" POWELL, JR.** (USA, MG-Ret.) - Died Saturday, March 18, 2023 in Columbia, South Carolina at the age of 82. The cause of death is unknown. A Columbia native, Judge Powell was born on May 27, 1940 to the late Osborne Eugene Powell, Sr. and Marjorie (née Davis) Powell. In 1962, he received a B.A. in Economics from Wofford College and his Juris Doctorate in 1965 from the University of South Carolina School of Law. Judge Powell also was the recipient of diplomas from United States Army War College and U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare School. For 35 years he served his country proudly in the United States Naval Reserves and the United States Army Reserves with active service during the Vietnam and Gulf Wars. Retiring at the rank of Colonel and Past Commander, 12<sup>th</sup> Military Law Center and Major General and Past Commander, Joint Services Detachment, SCMD. An outstanding, decorated officer, among his awards are the Legion of Merit/1<sup>st</sup> OLC, The Palmetto Cross and the South Carolina Lt. Governors Palmetto Patriot Award. A Federal Administrative Law Judge for 29 years, Judge Powell enjoyed lecturing both military and civilian legal education in various colleges and associations including; SC Bar, SC Trial Lawyers, Federal Bar Association and the Association of Administrative Law Judges. Judge Powell was a life member of the National Eagle Scout Association where he served on the Indian Waters Council, Eagle Scout Board of Review and Law Merit Badge Counselor. A member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, SC Gamma and SC Employer Support of Guard and Reserve. Most recently, he was awarded the Order of the Palmetto. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Columbia Chapter #303*. Judge Powell was a member of Shandon Baptist Church where he enjoyed being a greeter. An avid sports fan and especially loved the Gamecocks and Cowboys. He enjoyed gardening, skiing, biking, running, hiking and traveling. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his mother-in-law and sports buddy, Ruth Cleckner. Survivors include his wife of 30 years, Mary Lou Powell; three sons, Gene Powell, III (Heidi), Scott Powell (Robin), John Powell; eight grandchildren, Rebecca Powell, Rachel Powell, Callie Powell, Winter Snowzell (Sol), Anna Grace Powell, Jon Regan Powell, Tradd Powell, Grayson Powell and nephew; Gennaro Moscato. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at the Shandon Baptist Church with burial and military honors at



the Fort Jackson National Cemetery. A gathering of friends and family was held from 5:00 until 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at the Dunbar Funeral Home, Devine Street Chapel. Memorials may be made in Judge Osborne "Gene" Powell's name to Shandon Baptist Church, 5250 Forest Drive, Columbia, SC 29206; Samaritan's Purse, <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/> ; or a charity of choice. Memories may be shared at [www.dunbarfunerals.com](http://www.dunbarfunerals.com).



**JOHN JOSEPH PRZYBYLSKI** (USA, LTC-Ret.) - Died Monday, September 21, 2020 in Yorktown, Virginia at the age of 77, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland on September 25, 1942 to the late Theodore and Bertha Przybylski. John went on to graduate from Loyola High School, and then Loyola College in Maryland in 1964. LTC Przybylski retired after serving 28 years in the United States Army, including two combat tours in Vietnam (1966-1967, 1968-1969). He was extremely proud to command Cobra Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Airborne Infantry of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, and of his company's involvement in the assault on Hamburger Hill in May 1969. He was a decorated combat veteran, receiving the Bronze Star medal with "V" Device and three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Additional Awards include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Achievement Medal. His military education included Airborne School, Jungle Warfare School, Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, and Command and General Staff College. LTC Przybylski was also a member of the Order of Saint Maurice. John's life centered around service both to his family and to his communities. At Loyola College, Baltimore, MD he was the ROTC Cadet Commander and Drill Team Commander. During his time at Lafayette College, Easton, PA as a ROTC Instructor, he was inducted into Alpha Chi Rho fraternity by his ROTC students. He served as Pack Master of Pack 1 Cub Scouts, Heidelberg, Germany (3 years) and then Assistant Troop Leader, Troop 29, Heidelberg, Germany. In addition, he was a Boy Scouts of America member of the Order of the Arrow and Wood Badge trained leader. He created the Heidelberg Historic Trail activity and patch. For 2 summers he led guest troops from many countries on the six-mile hike through Heidelberg, Germany, explaining each historic site along the way. Also, while stationed in Germany he served as assistant coach with the Canadian/American Youth Ice Hockey Team, Heidelberg, Germany. A talented singer, he sang in the professional production of Sigmund Romberg's operetta "The Student Prince" at the Heidelberg Castle for 2 summers. John initiated, organized, and participated in reenactments of "The Living Last Supper" at Fort Meade Chapel-Fort Meade, MD, and Mark Twain Village Chapel-Heidelberg, Germany. During his time here on the Peninsula he, with a neighbor, organized and led a rifle team for interested high school students in York County. John also served as a Range Safety Officer at Lafayette Gun Club for many years. While a member of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church he was a choir member, he led E.Y.O.C. (Episcopal Youth of the Church) for 2 years, he was a member of the Vestry, he led the Bag Lunch Ministry at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Newport News for several years, he

was active on the St. Andrews Habitat for Humanity Team, and started the turkey 500 sandwich ministry. Later, after becoming a member of Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, Yorktown, VA, John served as an usher, and collected and delivered clothing and magazines for the VA Hospital in Hampton, VA. After retirement, he started a program of distributing American flags and teaching flag etiquette to children in the neighborhood. He was a *Life Member* of the following organizations; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #824 as their Post Chaplain, Disabled American Veterans Chapter #13, The Military Order of the World Wars (awarded the Medal of Saint Maurice), **Vietnam Veterans of America – Newport News Chapter #433**, American Legion, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association, Combat Infantrymen's Association, and Military Officers Association of America. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore and Bertha Przybylski. Survivors include his wife of 50 years Katherine (Kitty) Przybylski who he married on January 6, 1970 in Pebble Beach, California; son, John Przybylski (Erin and granddaughters, Hannah and Caroline); daughter, Katherine Gibson (Chris and grandchildren, Mary Katherine, Curtis, and Thomas); son, Robert Przybylski; daughter, Sarah Przybylski; daughter, Angela Brotherton (grandsons, Thomas and Andrew); siblings, Sister Mary Francis CSFN, Joan Mathieson, Linda Lane, and Michael Pryor. The family received friends at the R. Hayden Smith Funeral Home, Hampton VA on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-700 PM. A memorial service was held Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Yorktown, VA at 5:00 PM. The interment with full military honors was held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. The memorial service was live-streamed, and the link can be found at <https://kirkwoodpcusa.org/>. In lieu of flowers donations in John's memory may be made to the "Gary Sinise Foundation".



**JAY BENTON ROBERTS** - Died Saturday, March 25, 2023 at his residence in Norman, Oklahoma at the age of 77. He was former of Lawton, Oklahoma. The cause of death was Alzheimer's Disease. Jay was born on April 22, 1945 in Apache, Oklahoma to the late J.B. and Peggy June (née Smith) Roberts. He enjoyed watching OU football, gardening, golfing, traveling, snow skiing, his corvette, and spending time with his family. He experienced many different things throughout his life. He was in the United States Navy from 1969-1974 serving as a radioman in Vietnam and was honorably discharged. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lawton Chapter #751**. He was a principal for Lawton Public Schools for many years. He worked in construction and built many different houses. He retired in 1998. Jay married his wife Donna (née Devine) Roberts on March 4, 1994. They lived in Lawton prior to moving to Norman in 2010. He was preceded in death by his parents, his paternal grandparents, Charles and Gertrude Roberts, maternal grandparents, Warren and Pansy Smith, sister Judy Wilson, and his dog Ralph Roberts. Jay is survived by his wife of the home, daughters Staci & Greg Johnson of Walters, Oklahoma, Piper Roberts of Lawton, Oklahoma, step daughters, Pam Conway and David Oubre of Newalla, Oklahoma, Melissa and Clinton Farmer of Lawton, Oklahoma, grandkids, Seth and Hailey Johnson of Walters, Oklahoma, Riley & Emily Johnson of Ada, Oklahoma, Jenna Johnson of Walters, Oklahoma, Izlee Anderson of Lawton, Oklahoma, Riley Anderson and Meadow Miller of Lawton, Oklahoma, great grandson, Dawson Johnson of Walters, Oklahoma,

and his best buddy, Maggie Roberts of Norman, Oklahoma. The funeral service was at 9:00 AM on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Centenary United Methodist Church with Reverend John Vieths, Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Norman, Oklahoma officiating. The burial with military honors was in the Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, Oklahoma. The family greeted friends from 5:00-7:00 PM on Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

**ROBERT L. ROBERTS** – Died recently in 2023 in Portland, Oregon at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on January 11, 1947. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Salem Chapter #271**.



**JAMES STEPHEN ROBINSON** – Died Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at the Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown, Ohio at the age of 76. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on October 13, 1946 in Gallipolis, Ohio to the late Marvin and Jewell Robinson. In addition to his parents he was preceded by a sister, Lorraine Lyman. He graduated with the Class of 1966 from Gallia Academy High School and upon graduation he joined the United States Marine Corps and was sent to serve in Vietnam in November of the same year. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Columbus Chapter #709**. James Stephen is survived by his sister, Anita (E. John) Strauss, of Lewes DE. A private service at his gravesite in the Swan Creek Cemetery was held with Pastor John Jackson of New Life Lutheran Church officiating. Military Funeral Honors were presented at the cemetery by the United States Marine Corps and the VFW Post #4464 Honor Guard. Donations in Stephen's memory may be made to: New Life Lutheran Church, 900 Jackson Pike, Gallipolis, OH 45631.



**DENNIS R. ROLFINGSMEIER** - Died Friday, April 7, 2023 in Breese, Illinois at the age of 76. The cause of death was a heart attack. He was born on July 28, 1946 in Breese to the late Raymond and Margaret (née Ratermann) Rolfingsmeier. In addition to his parents, Dennis was preceded in death by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Dorothy (née Wesselmann) Buscher; and sister-in-law, Pat Rolfingsmeier. Dennis is survived by his wife, Joan (née Buscher) Rolfingsmeier, of Breese, whom he married May 15, 1971 at Saint Augustine Catholic Church in Breese; children, Lisa Schulte of Breese and Wayne Rolfingsmeier of Breese; grandchildren, Bret Schulte, Brooke (Clay) Liening, and Brianne (Will Smith) Schulte; great-granddaughter, Vivian Liening; siblings, Charles (Barb) Rolfingsmeier of Carlyle, Paul (Janet Huelsmann) Rolfingsmeier of Breese, and Dave (Cindy) Rolfingsmeier of Frogtown; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Judy (Chris) Pollock of Texas, Vernon (Anne) Buscher of Breese, Tom (Pat) Buscher of Breese, and Dale (Michele Fink) Buscher of Aviston; and numerous nieces and nephews. Dennis was a veteran of the United States Army. He worked for the railroad for twenty-five years as a carman inspector

and later retired from the City of Breese Street Department. He was a member of Saint Augustine Catholic Church and Holy Name Society in Breese, Breese American Legion Post #252, a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of American – Highland Chapter #269**, and Breese Knights of Columbus Council #2869. Dennis was an avid hunter and enjoyed hunting squirrel, deer, turkey, pheasant, and rabbit. He also enjoyed fishing, gardening, watching western TV shows, and watching YouTube hunting videos. Dennis was known to be a handyman and great cook; he could often be found working the fryers at the KC Hall and loved to host his own fish fries. Above all, Dennis was a family man and cherished time with his family. -Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Saint Augustine Catholic Church in Breese with Reverend Father Chuck Tuttle presiding. The interment was at Saint Dominic-Saint Augustine Cemetery with full military honors accorded. Visitation was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 from 9:00–11:00 AM at Saint Augustine Catholic Church in Breese. In lieu of flowers, plants, and other gifts, memorials may be made to Coping 4 Life or Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter #269 and will be received at the visitation or by mail, Moss Funeral Home, 535 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Breese, IL 62230, who is serving the family.

**PAUL E. ROTH** – Died recently in 2023 in Snowflake, Arizona at the age of 77. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on March 22, 1946. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Canyon Country (California) Chapter #355**.



**FRANK ROBERT RUSAK** - Died Tuesday, May 9, 2023 in Sterling Heights, Michigan at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Harper Woods, Michigan on March 10, 1948 to the late Frank and Wanda (née Szwejkowski) Rusak, and was also preceded in death by his brother, Richard Rusak and sister, Virginia (née Rusak) Evaniuck. Frank is survived by his loving wife, Sharon Rusak, his children, Cindy Rusak and Frank (Katie) Rusak, Jr., and stepson, Joe (Rachel) Racine; grandchildren, Ashley Lutt, Lauren Lutt, Alec Rusak, Allie Rusak, Tessa Rusak, Blake Rusak, Brendan Bourdage, Malissa Racine, and Shelby Racine, and other family and many caring friends. Frank grew up in Harper Woods and graduated with the class of 1966. Frank served his country in the United States Army in Vietnam, earning both a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his bravery and heroism. Frank was a proud war veteran and active member of the Outer Van Dyke AMVETS Post #27, where he dedicated much of his time and energy to serving his fellow veterans. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Clinton Township Chapter #154**. Frank was a talented pattern maker and dedicated employee at Models and Tools (aerospace tooling and manufacturing) for many years until his 2014 retirement. He worked tirelessly to provide for his family and was proud of the work he did. Frank loved fishing and spending time with friends and family, and he had a special bond with his beloved dog Walter. He had a wicked sense of humor that would light up any room, and he was always ready with a joke or a funny story to make those around him laugh. Despite his battle with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma, he remained brave and positive, always focusing on the good things in life.

Frank will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. He is now at peace, reunited with his loved ones who have passed before him, and watching over his family from above. We will always remember Frank's loyalty, his patriotism, and his loving spirit. Rest in peace, Frank. The family would like to thank Dr. Mitchell Folbe, Troy Beaumont Hospice and all who were there to support and help Frank and his family throughout this very difficult journey. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Frank's name to the Vietnam Veterans of America. Honoring Frank's wishes following cremation, a celebration of Frank's life took place later in the spring with a committal service and inurnment at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.



**RICHARD M. "Dick" RUSSELL** - Died Sunday, April 2, 2023 at Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center at the age of 76. He was a resident of Janesville, Wisconsin. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Janesville on December 16, 1946 to the late Levi and Mary (née Mason) Russell. Dick graduated from Janesville Senior High School in 1966, where he was an exceptional athlete. Dick honorably served his country during the Vietnam War in the United States Navy. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Janesville Chapter #236*. He worked for Parker Pen and retired after 27 years, to start his favorite gig at Prairie Woods Golf Course as a greenskeeper. Dick had a great sense of humor, with some of the best one liners. He was an avid (let's be real, fair weather) Wisconsin sports fan, and loved playing golf and bowling with his Senior League. These sports were highlighted by his 300 game in bowling and a hole in one. Dick was also very proud of becoming an Eagle Scout in his earlier years. He loved his daughters with all his heart, and was his grandchildren's number one fan, attending many sporting events and school activities. He was a great man, and the memories he left with his family and friends will never be forgotten. Dick is survived by his daughters, Kim (Sean) Fagan and Becky (Luke) Creed; grandchildren: Kelsi and Addison Fagan, Dillon Russell, Mason and Cole Creed; and special friend, Suzie Burkheimer; brother, Dave (Jackie) Russell; and nieces and nephews: Greg Russell, Jeff (Tina) Russell, Lori (Tim Oaks) Russell, Darcy Grady and Wade Campbell; and many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Levi and Mary Russell, his sister, Elizabeth Campbell, and brother-in-law, Duke Campbell. A memorial service was held at 11:00 AM on Friday, April 7, 2023 in the Chapel at Milton Lawns Memorial Park; followed by Military Honors. Family and friends were welcome to join at Russ' Park Place at 1:00 PM for a luncheon and anyone who truly knew Dick, knew he's not picking up the tab, well maybe the first round.



**CELESTINO PEREZ SALINAS** – Died Thursday, December 28, 2022 in Matherville, Illinois at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 11,



1947 in Coy City, Texas the eldest son of the late Guadalupe O. Salinas and Aurora Davila (née Perez) Salinas. He attended high school in Burlington, Wyoming. He was drafted in 1967 and served in the United States Army. After basic training in Fort Bliss, Texas, Celestino received advanced infantry training in Fort Polk, Louisiana. He then served a tour of duty as a combat infantry soldier with Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup>. Infantry Division in War Zone D, in Quan Loi and Phouc Vinh, South Vietnam. His unit was nick-named the Black Scarves. While in Vietnam he was promoted to Sergeant. His unit performed numerous Search and Destroy operations and were involved in numerous contacts with the Viet Cong. The most significant Battle was in Bu Dop on Hill #173 on December 7 1967. Celestino's unit was there providing protection to Special Forces Compound. The battle lasted into the early morning hours of December 8<sup>th</sup>. A morning sweep around the compound revealed 54 dead VC and 4 POWs. Celestino led his squad on several nighttime ambushes during his tour in Vietnam. Celestino received several military medals to include the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Celestino returned to Powell, Wyoming from Vietnam and on 20 August 1968 he married his sweetheart, Olga Sanchez from Crystal City, Texas. Celestino and his wife Olga moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri where he served as a Drill Instructor training recruits. It was while they were assigned to Fort Leonard Wood that his wife Olga presented Celestino with their first child, Roy Salinas. Celestino separated from the United States Army with an Honorable Discharge in December 1969 and went to work for United States Steel Corporation in Joliet, Illinois. He entered into an apprenticeship as a machinist. In 1973. His wife Olga presented Celestino with their second child, a daughter Lucinda. He was laid off from US Steel and went to work for the Civil Service at Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois as a machinist working in the manufacture of various defense weapons. In 1974 he was transferred to Fort Wingate, New Mexico. While there he used his GI Bill and attended the University of New Mexico, Gallup Branch. It was while they were in Gallup that Olga presented Celestino with their third child, Celestino Salinas, Jr. In 1980 before he could complete his studies he accepted and entered the Quality Assurance, Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance), QASAS program in Savanna, Illinois. He graduated from the Defense Ammunition Center in Savanna, Illinois as a QASAS inspector in 1981. Celestino first assignment was to Pueblo in 1981 thru 1982. He was assigned to work and inspect for serviceability conventional and chemical munitions and guided missiles. In 1982 Celestino was again assigned back to Fort Wingate in Gallup, New Mexico. While assigned there he was involved in the demilitarization of various obsolete munitions. Olga surprised Celestino and presented him with their fourth child, Mark Salinas. He then was assigned to Miesau Army Depot, Miesau, Germany, in 1984 thru 1999. He was a Branch Chief and supervised German nationals doing maintenance and inspections on conventional ammunition. While there he attended Central Texas College Branch in Miesau. He and his family explored Germany and toured Paris, Barcelona and Luxemburg while stationed in Germany. In July 1989, after returning from Germany he was assigned to Lake City, Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Missouri serving as a member of the Contracting Officers Representative in Ammunition Surveillance. He served as the Small Arms Program Manager, Ammunition Surveillance Division at the Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island, Illinois from 1991 thru 1996. While assigned there he attended evening classes at Western Illinois University Branch in Rock Island. During this assignment he was deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1992 and Haiti twice in 1994 and 1995. Again, he could not complete his studies due to the constant deployment requirements. Celestino was deployed to Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia he was the Chief,

Ammunition Surveillance at the Temporary Storage Site (TSA) #4 near King Khalid Military City. His group of inspectors monitored the process of clean, packing, loading and moving munitions left behind by the Armed Forces at the end of Operation Desert Storm and shipping to port and then to Germany and other various destinations. Celestino was deployed to Haiti. In Haiti he was the ammunition and explosives advisor to the UN Contingency Forces who were overseeing the transition of the government of Haiti after the ouster of dictator Raoul Cedras. Celestino was then reassigned to Vilseck, Germany in 1996 where he served as the Chief of Ammunition Surveillance at Vilseck Ammunition Supply Point. During this assignment he was deployed in support of our troops in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary in support of ammunition logistics. He returned briefly from Bosnia to Vilseck to witness his son, Celestino, Jr. take his oath and joined the Army. He then returned to finish his deployment. He returned from Germany and was assigned as an instructor at the Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester, Oklahoma in August 1998. Celestino was then assigned in September 2000 to Ft. Hood, Texas where he instructed classes in the Transportation of Hazardous Munitions and Container Certification for the transportation of hazardous cargo. In February 2003 Celestino was then assigned to Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea as the Chief of Surveillance. He was responsible for the quality assurance of the conventional ammunition and explosives stored at various sites in his area of responsibility. Celestino returned to Fort Hood after his assignment in Korea again as an instructor. While in Fort Hood he was deployed on September 2003 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to Camp Speicher, Iraq. His mission was to support the Division Ammunition Officer in the logistics of conventional ammunition matters. Celestino retired with 32 years from the Federal Civil Service in May 2005. He then went to work for Northrop Grumman Corp in Fort Irwin, California as a Senior Supervisor. He was responsible for the siting of the Forward Field Ammunition Supply Point and submitting the documentation for approval by the Defense Explosives Safety Board. Celestino retired after two years for the second time and he and his wife Olga settled in Bynum, Texas. Celestino was then called back to duty as an annuitant Quality Assurance Specialist, Ammunition Surveillance. His first assignment was at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. He was employed from February 2006 through January 4, 2008. His first area of responsibility was to inspect all storage and laboratory test sites to assure they were safe for storage and test of explosives. He also mentored personnel performing operations involved with Arms, Ammunition and Explosives (AA&E). Celestino was then assigned to McGregor Ammunition Supply Point, Fort Bliss, Texas. He worked there from September 2017 through April 2021. Celestino was involved in various areas of responsibility to include oversight in unit's training at the ranges. Some major areas of responsibilities were to inspect and process ammunition malfunctions, ammunition storage sites and shipping and receiving operations. Celestino enjoyed several hobbies, including RVing with his wife Olga, hunting, fishing, reading and researching family history. Later in his career hunting and fishing became scarce. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Bettendorf (Iowa) Chapter #776**. They settled in Matherville, Illinois not too far from their daughter Lucinda. Celestino has always told his wife of 54 years that they have been blessed with their children and grandchildren, and he for having such a wonderful wife. He goes home to the Lord to reunite with his parents Guadalupe Ochoa Salinas and Aurora Perez Salinas; his brothers, Domingo Salinas and Johnny Salinas; son-in-law Kenneth Sanders. He is survived by his wife Olga (née Sanchez) Salinas, children Roy (Missy) Salinas, Lucinda Sanders, Celestino Salinas Jr. and Mark Salinas, brothers, Michael Salinas,

Guadalupe (Susan) Salinas, Gerardo (Tamara) Salinas, Albert (Carrie) Salinas; sisters, Teresa (Victor) Rodriguez, Gloria Salinas and Felicita (Antonio) Perea, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren as well as one uncle, Jesus Perez and numerous nieces, nephews, and relatives. Visitation was held at the Dennison Funeral Home, Viola on Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00–7:00 PM with recitation of the rosary prior to visitation at 4:30 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at Saint Anthony Catholic Church, Matherville. The burial, with full military honors, was held in the Rock Island National Cemetery. Memorials may be left for Saint Anthony Catholic Church. Online condolences may be left at [www.dennisonfuneralhome.com](http://www.dennisonfuneralhome.com).



**ROBERT FRANCIS “Bob” SEEDLOCK, JR.** (USA, COL-Ret.) – Died Tuesday, January 17, 2023 in Brentwood, Tennessee at the age of 82. The cause of death is unknown. Bob, as his friends knew him, was born on August 29, 1940, in Savannah, Georgia to the late Robert Francis Seedlock, Sr. and Hortense (née Norton) Seedlock. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Elizabeth Morrisette; his daughter, Michelle Seedlock; and his granddaughter, Ashley Stewart. Bob served in the United States Army for 28 years. Colonel Seedlock was a decorated veteran of the Vietnam and Desert Storm campaigns. He served in many command and staff positions, and his many decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, an Army Commendation Medal, and an Army Achievement Medal. Bob also worked in Health Care Administration and as the Director for the Mount Juliet Senior Center. He was active in several service organizations, including the Kiwanis Club and the Knights of Columbus. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Franklin Chapter #1140**. Bob was an avid outdoorsman and was a proficient hunter and fisherman. He also was an antique automobile enthusiast and owned several classic vehicles that he proudly displayed in many different car shows throughout Middle Tennessee. Most of all, Bob was a loving husband and father. Those who will cherish Bob’s memories are his wife of 58 years, Joanne Seedlock; children, Robert Seedlock and his wife Leisa of South Carolina, Valerie Simpkins and her husband Keith of Fairview, Katherine Patience and her husband Josh of Murfreesboro; grandchildren, Micheal Seedlock, Lauren Seedlock, Thomas Stewart, and Savannah Patience; brother and sister-in-law, Walter and Rebecca Seedlock, and sister, Mary Seedlock. The family greeted friends from 10:00 until 10:50 AM on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Catholic Church at 9100 Crockett Road in Brentwood, followed by a memorial mass at 11:00 AM with Reverend Father Joe McMahon officiating. His interment took place in the church columbarium after the Mass. A reception was at the church following the service. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Bob’s memory to Benedictine Military School of Savannah, GA.



**RANDOLPH JOHN “Randy” SEILER** - Died Monday, April 17, 2023 at the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the age of 76. He was a resident of Fort Pierre, South Dakota. The cause of death is unknown. Randolph John Seiler was born on July 7, 1946, at the Mobridge Hospital in Mobridge, South Dakota to the late Matt and LaVaun Seiler. Randy and his younger sister Kutzie grew up in Herreid where Matt ran the theater and gas station and LaVaun worked for the USPS. After graduating from high school in 1964, Randy enrolled at South Dakota State University in Brookings. As Randy tells the story - at SDSU his BAC was higher than his GPA and Uncle Sam invited him to serve in the United States Air Force. Three years in the military including a year in Vietnam changed his life. He served with distinction earning the Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service. He had always been proud to be an American. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Watertown Chapter #1054**. In Vietnam, he learned how lucky he was to be an American. Interested in public service, Randy enrolled in the University of Nebraska Omaha, where he graduated cum laude in 1973 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. His uncle, Les Heisler took him to Pierre where he met and was tapped by Governor Kneip, to be the Director of the Division of Law Enforcement Assistance, a post he held from 1973-77. After working in the Kneip Administration, he fulfilled his life-long dream to become a lawyer. He graduated from USD Law with honors, was chosen to be Editor-in-chief of the South Dakota Law Review, and was selected by the faculty as the outstanding graduate in his law school class. Randy clerked for the U.S. District Court before returning to Mobridge in 1981 as a partner in a private law firm. As a young attorney in a small-town practice, he handled civil and criminal cases, served as the Campbell County Deputy State's Attorney, appeared in local, state, and federal court as well as the tribal courts. He was a Special Judge for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, beginning his lifelong commitment to tribal justice and sovereignty. In Mobridge, he and wife Patti (née Graff) had two sons, Christopher and Jeffrey. His boys were raised to understand the concept of distributive justice - the extent to which society's institutions ensure that benefits and burdens are distributed in ways that are fair and just. The family made room in their home and hearts for scores of foster children. When Randy's clients couldn't afford representation, he bartered - once for a horse that wasn't broken that nearly broke him. One Christmas Eve he drove to the Walworth County Jail and paid bail for his client so he could spend the holiday with his family. He just did the right thing for someone else - quietly, with no expectation of recognition. In 1995, Randy sold his law practice and moved to Pierre to accept a position as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota. Randy believed that being an AUSA was one of the greatest jobs a lawyer can ever have. Representing victims of crimes - homicide, child sexual abuse and rape - broadened his understanding of justice. He never walked away from a difficult case. He was the lead counsel on more than 70 jury trials and more than 500 criminal cases. In 2009 he became the First Assistant U.S. Attorney, showing a skill for management and organization that was a career trademark. In March 2015, Randy was named South Dakota's acting U.S. Attorney and on February 5, 2016, his appointment was made official by the U.S. District Court. Creating a Civil Rights division was one of his proudest achievements as U.S. Attorney. In 2018, Randy was the Democratic nominee for SD Attorney General, and with broad bipartisan support, ran

a strong race against the Republican challenger. As a Democrat in a predominately Republican state, Randy was defeated, but in typical Randy fashion, he seized the opportunity, re-focusing his time and energy on the causes and people important to him. He served on the Fort Pierre City Council, and was a founding member of the Badlands National Park Conservancy. He was honored to serve as legal counsel to the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes. In 2019, the South Dakota Democratic Party, struggling to remain financially viable, elected Randy as Chair. Randy was determined to right the ship - he and others personally guaranteed loans to make sure the Party could be competitive and relevant. His goal was to create a bridge to a new generation of leaders. Randy served his party with distinction and honor for four years. While the law and politics were major parts of his life, his family was his priority. In Pierre, he met and married the love of his life, his wife Wanda. Married on October 12, 1996, their union was a true partnership. As a couple they challenged one another to be their best self. Together they raised her daughters, Jennifer and Paige. The family spent summers on the river - from dusk till dawn. Randy enriched their lives - expanding their world and perspectives - always their champion, advisor and friend. Their home was filled with love and happiness. Randy was the heart of their family and their marriage set the standard the girls would aspire to in their adult lives. In 2013, the Seilers welcomed their first grandchild, Brooklyn, with whom Randy formed a special bond. They talked daily. When Brooklyn named Grandpa Randy as her "favorite person in the world," Randy acknowledged that it was the best recognition he could ever receive. With the addition of grandchildren - Alley, Orson, and Otto - Randy began to shift his focus. Seeking to enjoy and enrich their lives, he attended their events and was the instigator of regular adventures - hiking, sledding, boating, skiing. After a long career in public service, Randy declared Grandpa as the best job he would ever have. Randy was a lifelong runner and always had a four—legged companion by his side. In 2013, he founded Four on the Fourth in the Fort, a fun run that kicks off Fort Pierre's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Randy also loved the outdoors, the law, the great State of South Dakota, and the community he called home - Fort Pierre. Randy is survived by his wife Wanda, sons, Chris (Diana Gomez) and Jeff Seiler, daughters, Jennifer (Derek) Newcomb and Paige Jensen and grandchildren, Brooklyn and Alley Newcomb, Orson Robertson and Otto Seiler, sister Kutzie Flyger and Nelson. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother-in-law Steve Flyger. A visitation was held on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Pat Duffy Community Youth and Involved Center in Fort Pierre with a prayer service starting at 7:00 PM. A funeral service was held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Pierre with burial at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Pierre. For those unable to attend the services they will be live-streamed on his obituary page at [www.isburgfuneralchapels.com](http://www.isburgfuneralchapels.com).



**THOMAS DAVID SEWELL** – Died Saturday April 1, 2023 at the Brinton Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania at the age of 78. He was a resident of Chester, Pennsylvania. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on December 31, 1944 in



Chester, Pennsylvania to the late Harvey Sewell, Sr. and Mary (née Frisby) Sewell. Thomas received his formal education in the Chester School District and was a graduate of Chester High School Class of 1964. After graduating, Thomas enlisted in the United States Army on June 24, 1968 and was Honorably discharged on June 27, 1973. He worked for the Congoleum Corporation for forty-two years. He was a member of the Charles Horsey American Legion Post 300 of Chester, PA for forty-four years and a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Media Chapter #67**. He loved James Brown's music and was a Pittsburgh Steelers fan. He is survived by his caregivers, nephew Roger and his wife Rose Marie Sewell; a special niece, Deitra Sewell; his brother, Marion (Tina) Sewell of New Castle, DE; two sons, Victor (Heather) Sewell Randolph of Tacoma, WA and Michael Sewell of Middletown, DE; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, and; a host of other family members and friends. Thomas was predeceased by his brother Harvey and Sister Alice Sewell. A special Thank You to the staff of Briton Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.



**JOSEPH PAUL SHIDISKIS, SR.** - Died Thursday, April 13, 2023 in his residence in Alexandria, Louisiana at the age of 78. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on July 5, 1944 to the late Joseph and Isabelle Shidiskis. He was a member of the American Legion, a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Alexandria Chapter #1131** and a United States Navy Veteran. He proudly served two tours during Vietnam and was also awarded a Bronze Star. He played football while in the Navy and enjoyed coaching in the Red River League. He was a loving husband and father and was very involved in his children's upbringing. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Mitsuyo Amy Shidiskis; his parents, Joseph and Isabelle Shidiskis; and two sisters, Phyllis Lacombe and Anna Stibbard. Those left to mourn his loss and cherish his memory include one son, Joseph Paul Shidiskis, Jr., and his wife, Lorinda; three daughters, Phyllis "Fifi" Shidiskis Lafrance, Paula Shidiskis Bowman, and her husband, Jeremiah Thomas, and Vickie Mitchi Shidiskis Wigley, and her husband, Tony; one brother, Daniel Shidiskis; six grandchildren, Derrick Dewayne Sampract, Jr., Chynna Bowman Johnson, and her husband, Emmanuel, Jordan Thomas, Ariyana Shidiskis, Arieus Shidiskis, and Alyssia Shidiskis; three great grandchildren, Korbyn Sampract, Ame Johnson, and Koda Sampract; and his fur babies, Bingo, Chibby, and Daisy. A time of visitation was held in the Chapel of Rush Funeral Home, Pineville on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 from 9:30 AM until the time of the service. The funeral service was held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 in the Chapel of Rush Funeral Home, Pineville, with Reverend Lyndon Marcotte officiating. The interment was in the Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery, Leesville, under the direction of Rush Funeral Home, Pineville. Honored to serve as pallbearers were: Jordan Thomas, Joe Shidiskis, Jr., Micah Wootan, Derrick Sampract, Jr., David Shidiskis, and Daniel Shidiskis. The honorary pallbearer was Jeremiah Thomas. Friends may post online messages of condolence for the Shidiskis family by visiting [www.rushfh.com](http://www.rushfh.com).



**KENNETH WILSON "Ken" SHORTEN** - Died Friday, May 26, 2023 at home in Lincoln, Rhode Island at the age of 76, surrounded by his loving family. The cause of death was cancer. He was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on January 28, 1947 to the late Daniel W. Shorten, Jr., and Elsie (née Hindle) Shorten. He was a lifelong resident of Lincoln. He was a 1966 graduate of Central Falls High School; where he was a star player on the Central Falls High School Basketball team and was recently inducted into the 2020 Central Falls High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was a United States Army veteran serving from June 29, 1966 to June 27, 1969, serving in the Vietnam War with Company C, 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (CBT). He attained the rank of Specialist 5 (E-5). Ken survived life threatening injuries in Vietnam and after a very long recovery he returned home and proudly joined the Lincoln Police Department. After 20 years of service to The Town of Lincoln, he retired and then joined the Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs where he worked for 17 years as a Sheriff at Rhode Island Superior Court. He was an avid sports enthusiast, following many players and teams as well as attending games and races. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, shell fishing, playing cards, and spending time with friends and family. But nothing made him prouder or happier than his time and role and title of Papa to his grandchildren. They made his life complete. He was active in numerous veterans' organizations including the DAV Chapter #22 in Cumberland; the Eugene T. Lefebvre VFW Post #1271 in Central Falls, where he was a life member and Past Vice-Commander, and; a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – James Michael Ray (Woonsocket) Chapter #818**. In honor of his service to his country, he was chosen to serve as Grand Marshal of the Lincoln Memorial Day Parade in 2018. He is survived by three daughters, Jacquelyn Dionne and her husband Jason, Kelly Spaziano and her husband Joseph, and Kristen Shorten, all of Lincoln; one sister, Marilyn Massey of Alabama; four grandchildren, Danielle Dionne, Austin Kenneth Dionne, Alyssa Spaziano and Jillian Spaziano; one great-granddaughter, Blair Cynthia; and seven nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Elaine Dame and Daniel W. Shorten III. His funeral service was held on Friday, June 2, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Bellows Funeral Chapel, 160 River Road, Lincoln. Burial with military honors were held in the Highland Memorial Park, Johnston. Relatives and friends were invited to attend the wake on Thursday from 3:00 – 7:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory made be made to the George "Duke" Gannites Scholarship Fund, c/o Lincoln Police Department, 100 Old River Road, Lincoln, RI 02865 or to Operation Stand Down RI, 1010 Hartford Avenue, Unit #1, Johnston, RI 02919 would be appreciated. For directions and guest book, please visit [www.bellowsfuneralchapel.com](http://www.bellowsfuneralchapel.com).



**DAVID ARRON SOMERVILLE** - Died Monday, April 25, 2022 in Howell, Michigan at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on September 20, 1946 to the late Albert and Rosabelle Somerville. David was the beloved husband of Christine, loving father of Angela Somerville, Dawn (John) Somerville-Biegler, Denise Karst, Mark (Lisa) Bialke and step-

father to many. He was the proud grandfather of Sophie, Amanda (Karina), Danielle, Mark Jr., Angela. David was the dear brother of Ginny Schmittou, the late Joe and Danny. He was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Rosabelle Somerville and many other siblings. David served his country during the Vietnam War in the United States Army. He was a proud veteran and past Commander of Post #4357, serving on the Honor Guard and as Chaplain. David would pick up Vets and take them to their appointments at the VA Hospital. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Howell Chapter #110**. David loved music, classic cars, collecting coins, and wood working. He also enjoyed time at the gun range, old John Wayne westerns and black & white war movies. David was very religious, loving and kind. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him. David's visitation was held on Friday, April 29, 2022 at the Keehn-Griffin Funeral Home, 706 West Main Street, Brighton from 1:00 until 8:00 PM. A Rosary was prayed at 6:00 PM. On Saturday, David laid-in-state from 1:00 PM until the time of his funeral Mass at 2:00 PM at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 440 East Washington Street, Howell. David's final resting place was in the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. Share a special memory of David with his family on his Guestbook page.

**STEPHEN R. SPECTOR** - Died Friday, February 10, 2023 at Winchester Medical Center in Winchester, Virginia at the age of 80. He was a resident of Winchester. The cause of death is unknown. Stephen was born on February 5, 1943 to the late Noah and Leah Spector. He worked as a general mechanic for the Federal Printing Office. Stephen served our country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Frederick Chapter #304**. He is survived by his son, Derek Spector and his wife Betty. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at the Culpeper National Cemetery.

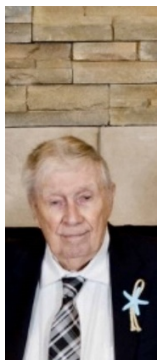


**GARY LEE STEINHOFF** - Died Friday, April 7, 2023 in Lone Tree, Colorado at the age of 78. The cause of death was pneumonia. He was born on January 12, 1945. Gary, Steinie or Grandpa Grandpa was a man who loved his family, all things cars, black labs, the outdoors, boating, and a Proud Veteran. Gary served in the United States Navy as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer and received the National Defense Service Metal for innovations in creating a faster way to fuel aircrafts aboard all naval ships. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Aurora Chapter #1106**. His work with mechanics didn't stop with aircrafts. He was a well-respected mechanic and machinist over the years working for Ford and was a crew chief for several different race teams. He had several classic cars that he built or restored himself. Most recently a 1941 Willys Truck. He also has a 1923 Ford T-Bucket and a 1972 Ford Torino. Gary made sure to share his passion with this family. He loved the outdoors and boating. His fondest family memories were the family water ski trips he went on with his brother, nephews and daughters. Nascar was another love that was shared with grandsons. The name Snoopy has a special place in Gary's heart. Gary loves black labs and naming each of his black labs Snoopy with his last dog, Snoopy 4, truly missing him. Gary is survived by his daughters and son-in-laws, Miranda and Don Cullen

and Danielle and Doug Rowe; grandchildren Reagan Cullen, Brianna Rowe, Jonah Cullen, Lily Rowe, and Justin Rowe; brother Bob Steinhoff and nephews, and friends, especially from the VVA- an amazing group of folks! Contributions in Gary's memory may be made to Vietnam Veterans of America, see link below. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.olingerchapelhill.com](http://www.olingerchapelhill.com) for the Steinhoff family.

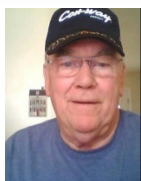


**RICHARD L. STRADER** - Died Wednesday, April 12, 2023 in Wantage, New Jersey at the age of 81. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on January 13, 1942. Richard was an avid outdoorsman who loved to fish and hunt. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and worked at Rene's as a factory worker and Plastoid's in Hamburg for 30 plus years. Richard was a *Life Member* to the VFW of Sparta, NJ and **Vietnam Veterans of America – Vernon Chapter #1002**; and was also a member of the Sussex Elks and American Legion of Sussex, NJ. Richard is survived by his beloved wife Jo Anne L. (née Morris) Strader; nieces Debra Seebeck, Susan Kassner, Debra Hotalen and partner Henry Wesolowski, Chrissy Regeling and husband Robert; nephews Robert Strader and wife Joyce, Harold Hotalen and wife Dawne, Wayne Hotalen, William Hotalen and wife Corrina, Russell Hotalen and partner Diane Trudgen, Earl Hotalen, Charles Hotalen, and Elmer Morris 4th. Richard also leaves behind many great and great-great nieces and nephews. His parents Austin and Annabell, sisters Grace and Martha, and brothers Austin, Bill and Gene predeceased him. Visitation for Richard was held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Goble Funeral Home, 22 Main Street, Sparta, NJ. Following the visitation was a graveside service with military honors at the North Hardyston Cemetery, North Church Road, Hamburg, NJ. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Richard's memory to the Sparta VFW or Sussex Elks.



**RAYMOND JOSEPH "Ray" TOTH** - Died peacefully Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at his home in South Plainfield, New Jersey at the age of 98. The cause of death is unknown. He was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey on June 7, 1924 to the late Joseph Raymond Toth and Edna (née Thomas) Faede-Toth. He attended high school, before taking the call to serve his country. Raymond then went on to join the United States Navy and served during World War II, where he was awarded a Legion of Merit for spotting and sinking an enemy submarine on sonar in 1943. He was a *Life Member* of **Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – New Brunswick Chapter #233**. After the war, he resided in Far Hills before marrying the late Mildred Darling and

settling in South Plainfield in 1951. Ray was a special needs bus driver for the South Plainfield Board of Education, making a difference in children's lives for over 40 years. Predeceased by his loving wife of 72 years, Mildred (née Darling) Toth, and daughter Carol Salter, Ray is survived by his loving children, Gary Toth and wife Marlene, and Susan Dabrio; his cherished grandchildren, Janette (Bill), Brian (Samantha), Eric (Melanie), Jessica (Lou); and his adored great-grandchildren, Melissa, Michele, Billy, Haley, Jayden, Liam, Zander, Axel, Jackson, Bryson, and Skylar, along with a host of extended relatives and friends. Visitation was held at the McCriskin - Gustafson Home for Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ, on Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM. Funeral services were held at the funeral home on Saturday, April 15, 2023, beginning at 2:30 PM. At the family's request, cremation services were held privately. Following cremation, the burial took place at Flower Hill Cemetery in North Bergen, NJ. In lieu of flowers, Donations can be made to Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital, in Ray's name. For directions and to leave a condolence, visit [www.mccriskinfuneralhome.com](http://www.mccriskinfuneralhome.com).



**ALBERT WESLEY VARNER, SR.** - Died Wednesday, March 29, 2023 in Williamsburg, Virginia at the age of 81. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Dover, Ohio on August 20, 1941 to the late Albert R. Varner and Maxine (née Tedde) Ross-Varner. Albert served his country in the United States Navy during Vietnam and was a member of the Latter-Day Saints. He also was a member of the VFW and the American Legion. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – New Philadelphia (Ohio) Chapter #857**. He was preceded in death by his mother, Maxine (Tedde) Ross; father, Albert R. Varner; and brothers, Donald and Gordon Varner. He is survived by his special friend, Esther Schultz; son, Albert “Wesley” Varner, Jr. and his wife Sara Brown; daughters, Tricia Clark and her husband R. Michael Clark, Sr., and Bonnie Wallbank and her husband, Chris Wallbank; brother, Tracy Varner; and grandchildren, Megan Owens, C.J. Clark, Tabitha Anderson, Alivya Clark, James Clark, Maylynn Clark, Lainey Clark, Adriana Anderson, Kaylia Anderson, Keenan Varner, Emma Varner, Kaden Varner, Alana Varner, Kyleigh Kempton, Jessica Wallbank, Madison and Wallbank.

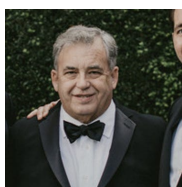


**HENRY H. WADAHARA** – Died Saturday, March 18, 2023 in San Jose, California at the age of 81. The cause of death is unknown. Henry was born on November 23, 1941 in Haleiwa, Hawaii and was the youngest of eleven brothers and sisters. He graduated Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1959 and quickly joined the United States Army where he served 2 tours in Vietnam between 1967 and 1972 before retiring in 1980 and settling in San Jose, CA. In 1982, he joined the US Postal Service where he worked 17 years before retiring in 1999. From there, he focused his attention on the VFW, becoming the Post Commander for the Nisei Memorial Post 9970. Shortly after, he became the VFW CA State Commander from 2003-2004. After his run,



Henry became the VFW Zane-Johnson Post Commander until his passing. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – San José Chapter 201**. Henry was an avid fisherman and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He is survived by his wife Kieu, six children, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at 10:00 AM on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Bay Area Mortuary in San José, California.

**MARTIN EVERETT WEBSTER** - Died Friday, February 17, 2023 in Cincinnati, Ohio at the age of 78. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on June 15, 1944. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Columbus Chapter #649**. Graveside services were held on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the Kneseth Israel Cemetery, 5350 Sidney Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45238.



**ROY C. WHERRY** - Died Sunday, January 1, 2023 in Highland Lakes, New Jersey at the age of 74, after a valiant battle to remain with his family and friends for as long as possible. The cause of death is unknown. He was born in Irvington, New Jersey on October 9, 1948 to the late Robert and Alice (née Curtis) Wherry. Roy grew up in Livingston and spent his summers in Highland Lakes. He joined the United States Marine Corps after his graduation from Livingston High School and settled in Highland Lakes following his military service, where he lived for over fifty years and raised his family. Roy lived his life in service to others. He was part of the original 11-member Vernon Township Police Department formed in 1975 and he ultimately retired (albeit begrudgingly) in 2013 as the Chief of Police. He was a proud Eagle Scout and was active in the Boy Scouts of America; he was a member of the Sussex County Marine Corps League Detachment #747, Holy Counselor Lutheran Church in Vernon, and the NJ Chiefs of Police Association. He was the Vernon OEM Director and a past member of the Highland Lakes Fire Department and Ambulance Squad. He would join almost any group that would have him and gave extra points if their meetings included food, but his real drive in these endeavors was in helping those in his community and making lasting relationships with everyone he met. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Vernon Chapter #1002**. In his spare time, he enjoyed telling jokes to anyone who would listen (particularly bad jokes), dropping off baked goods to family, friends, and even family of friends, going to the dump, driving his MG, spending time on his pontoon boat which he insisted on calling the Wherry Family Yacht, and buying tools at yard sales and telling you “hey this is pretty cool, you may need this one day!!” Predeceased by his parents, and his brother, Don Wherry, Roy is survived by his daughters, Jeanette Emmerich and her husband Michael, and Jaime Wherry; sons Robert Wherry and his husband Christopher DeMuro, and Patrick Wherry and his wife Julianne; grandchildren Tyler, Keegan, and Aubrey Paluzzi, Meghan and Lauren Emmerich, and Ryan and Luke Wherry; his sister, Eileen Detweiler and her husband Bill; and many nephews and nieces. Roy is also survived by his partner of many years, Bonnette Curtis. The void he leaves in their lives, and the lives of his friends and colleagues, is immeasurable. A visitation for

Roy was held on Thursday, January 5, 2023 from 2:00-7:00 PM at Saint Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church, 614 County Road 517, Vernon, NJ. Roy's funeral service was held on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Ferguson—Vernon Funeral Home, (One Vanderhoof Court for GPS), 241 Route 94, Vernon, NJ 07462. The burial was in the Glenwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to either the Vernon Police Athletic League ([vernonpal.com](http://vernonpal.com)) or the Sussex County Marine Corps League Detachment #747, 152 Compton Road, Sussex, NJ 07461. Online condolences may be offered through [fergusonfuneralhomesnj.com](http://fergusonfuneralhomesnj.com).



**DARRELL D. WILLRATH** - Died Thursday, May 26, 2022, at the EverHeart Hospice Care Center in Greenville, Ohio at the age of 74. He was a resident of Celina, Ohio. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on November 9, 1947, in Celina to the late Urban and Marie (née Soerhoff) Willrath. Darrell and Nancy Behm were married on October 17, 1970, and she survives, along with their sons: Chad (Traci) Willrath and Scott (Brooke) Willrath of Celina, six grandchildren: Kyle, Ashley, Rianne, Chase, Torrance and Taryn, two great grandchildren, his brother, Larry Willrath of Yukon, OK, sister-in-law, Sylvia (Stan) Gage of Cutler, OH, brother-in-law, Denis (Chris) Behm of Loveland, OH, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Preceding him in death was a sister-in-law, Paula Willrath. Darrell was a 1966 Celina High School graduate. He served with the United States Army from 1967-1969, stationed in Vietnam from 1968-1969. Darrell was an Army Maintenance Crew Chief with the 183<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Airplane Company. From 1970 through 1996, Darrell served as a Firefighter and EMT with the Celina Fire Department. After his service with the department, Darrell then worked in maintenance at the Mercer County Courthouse, retiring after several years. Darrell was a board member with the Mercer County Veterans Service Commission for 10 years, and a member of Celina VFW Post #5713, American Legion Post #210, Eagles Aerie #1291, and Moose Lodge #1473. He was a *Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America – Celina Chapter #783*. One of his favorite pastimes was working as a photographer at Eldora and Winchester Speedways. Most of all, Darrell really enjoyed spending time with his grandkids, and taking care of his yard. In Darrell's honor, Memorial Contributions may be made to The Celina Fire Department. Friends and Family were invited to a public Celebration of Life in honor of Darrell Willrath, which was held on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the American Legion Post #210, lower level, 2510 State Route 703, Celina. Private Graveside Services were held for Darrell on June 4<sup>th</sup> at Buck Cemetery, near Celina, with Reverend Richard Van Horn presiding. Military Rites were conducted by members of Celina VFW Post #5713 and American Legion Post #210. The funeral procession was escorted by the Celina Police Department, Celina Fire Department and EMS, and the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. The Mercer County Firefighter's Honor Guard and Celina Fire Department personnel participated, with Steve Koesters serving as pallbearer, Steve Wurster as flag bearer, and Barry Fennig shared the Fireman's Prayer. Darrell's grandchildren: Kyle, Ashley, Rianne, Chase, Torrance and Taryn, acted as honorary pallbearers.



**BENJAMIN FREDERICK “Ben” WOLFE, JR.** - Died Saturday, March 25, 2023, after battling IPF (Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis) at the age of 81. He was born on December 9, 1941. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Aurora Chapter #1106**. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Honor Bell Foundation in honor of Ben: <https://www.honorbell.org/>. A memorial service was held at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 PM for those who wanted like to attend.



**TERRY LANE WOOD** - Died Wednesday, March 29, 2023 in University Hospital at Cleveland at the age of 76, following a long battle with heart problems. He was a resident of New Philadelphia, Ohio. He was born in the Scio Pottery in Ulrichsville, Ohio on December 3, 1946 to the late Hilbert “Jack” and Catherine “Kate” Wood. After graduating from Conotton Valley High School in 1964, he joined the United States Army in January 1965. After basic training and aircraft maintenance school, he served a year in Vietnam as a door gunner. He was given the nickname, “Lucky” from his comrades. He received his honorable discharge on January 29, 1968 then worked for DuPont Chemical for seven years. In 1977, he re-entered the US Army and retired in February 1994. During his career, he served with different units and saw action in several places with a special operations unit for 10 years. He received the following medals: Army Commendation, nine Air Medals, six Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, two NCO Professional Development Ribbons, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Aircraft Crewman Badge, Driver Mechanic Badge, Expert Marksmanship for M14 and M16 Rifles, and four Overseas Service Bars. Terry was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America**

– **New Philadelphia Chapter #857**, VFW, and Army-Navy Garrison. He was also a member of the American Legion Post #139, a Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, and a longtime member of Sacred Heart Church in New Philadelphia. After retiring from the Army, Terry worked for Georgia-Pacific Box Container unit, and retired from Belden Brick Company. He also ran a part-time small engine business for 14 years before retiring permanently. In March 1994, Terry married his wife, Maria Estrellita Figueroa in the Philippines and they had one daughter, Theresa-Elaine Wood. Terry is also survived by a son, Richard (Jennifer) Wood. In addition to his parents, Terry is preceded in death by his sister, Nancy, and maternal and paternal grandparents. The family greeted guests on Monday, April 3, 2023 from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Linn-Hert-Geib Funeral Home and Crematory in New Philadelphia where members of the K of C honored Terry during a 6:45 PM service. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday at 10:00 AM. Military Honors, by the Carl C. Stoller Post #1445 of the New Philadelphia VFW followed at the church's flagpole. All were invited to join the family for a meal in the church's Parish Center following the services. Donations in Terry's name can be made to Sacred Heart Church, 139 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE, New Philadelphia, Ohio.



**JEFFREY DOUGLAS "Jeff" WRIGHT** - Died Thursday, March 16, 2023 at Fairfield Medical Hospital at the age of 75. He was a resident of Carroll, Ohio. The cause of death is unknown. Jeff was born on September 17, 1947 in Newark, Ohio to the late Douglas and Marian (née Priest) Wright. He graduated from Whitehall-Yearling High School in 1965 and attended Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan. He joined the United States Air Force where he served from 1965 to 1968 receiving an honorable discharge as a Sergeant. During his time in the service he received Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Good Conduct Medal. Jeff was invited to Honor Flight on September 23, 2021 which he felt was a great privilege. Jeff was known for his heart of service; he volunteered for the Suicide Prevention Center Hotline Detroit and Columbus, Fairhope Hospice, was Board Member of Olivedale Senior Center, Military Veterans of Olivedale and was a member of Knights of Columbus-Lancaster and VFW #10523, Canal Winchester. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Carroll Chapter #1045**. Jeff was an avid fan of The Ohio State University Buckeyes. Though Jeff did many things throughout his life, he felt his greatest accomplishment was his family. Jeff is survived by Cindy, his wife of 51 years; daughters, Michelle (Mike) Bonnette and Melissa (Myron) Blansette; grandchildren, Alex, Devyn and Hunter; siblings, Brenda Lane, Jerry Wright, Paula Szymczak and Joe Wright; dear friend, Fred Hall; and numerous loved ones and friends. He is greeted in heaven by his parents; sisters, Jeanette Hager and Joni Betterly; and granddaughter, Katherine Rose Bonnette. Family and friends were invited to visit on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00-7:00 PM at the Dwayne R. Spence Funeral Home, Canal Winchester, a vigil service start at 6:30 PM. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption on Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 AM. The interment was at Floral Hills Memory Gardens.



**ROBERT R. "Bob" WYATT** – Died Tuesday, February 21, 2023 in Denver, Colorado at the age of 75. The cause of death is unknown. He was born on February 7, 1948. He served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a *Life Member* of **Vietnam Veterans of America – Lakewood Chapter #1071**. Graveside services with full military honors was held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 2:15 PM in Fort Logan National Cemetery, 4400 West Kenyon Avenue, Denver, Colorado.

*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!*