



Col. Stephen S. Kappa

December 1, 1946 - April 24, 2024

After a long battle with congestive heart failure, Retired U.S. Army Colonel Stephen S. Kappa completed his earthly mission on Thursday April 25, 2024. He passed peacefully at home surrounded by his family. COL Kappa was born on December 1, 1946, in War, WV, to the late Margaret and Stan Kappa.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Kim; daughters: Monica Centers (Dick) of Evansville, IN and Kelly Pashke (Nate) of Ashburn, VA; grandchildren: Aaron Centers (Jessica) of Herndon, VA, and Megan Ettensohn (Keil) of Evansville, IN. He is also survived by Kim's sons: Brandon (Andrea) Isaacs of Falls View, WV, Matthew (Brandie) Isaacs of Twenty Mile, WV and Michael Isaacs of Winfield, WV; and Kim's grandchildren: Emma, Lilly, Emily, Ayden, and Dylan; and his sister: Margaret Pudlo of Bethel Park, PA. He'll also be missed by many extended family members, friends, and their dear friend, Janice, who was more like family and helped in many capacities of his care. His cherished fur babies will also miss him greatly.

He graduated from Big Creek High School in War, WV; earned a Bachelor of Arts from Regents College; and a Master of Arts in Organizational Communication from West Virginia University. In addition to his military service, he served the community through involvement with Ascension Catholic Church of Hurricane, WV, and the Knights of Columbus.

He enlisted in the U.S Army in 1966 and attended Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, SC.

COL Kappa was commissioned as an Infantry Officer upon graduation from Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA, Class 95-67, on 31 October 1967. His first duty assignment was as a Tactics Instructor, Ranger Training Command, at Ft. Benning, GA. He was then accepted into flight school at Ft. Rucker, AL, in 1968 and was trained on rotary wing aircraft. Following his graduation from flight school, he flew UH-1 aircraft and served in various positions with the 117th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) in Long Bien, Republic of Vietnam. After his tour in Vietnam, his next duty station was in Kitzingen, Germany, where he served in numerous leadership positions with 2nd Brigade/ 3rd Infantry Division. Following his active-duty service, COL Kappa returned to West Virginia and served his home state full time for the WV Army National Guard from 1974, until his retirement in 2001. He held various positions including S-2, Training Officer with 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery Battalion, Fairmont, WV; Battery Commander, 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, Morgantown, WV; S-2, Training Officer with 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, Fairmont, WV; S-1, Administration Officer, Executive Officer and S-3 for Headquarters State Area Command in Charleston, WV. COL Kappa also served as the Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, in Fairmont, WV; State Area Command Readiness Officer, and later served as Safety Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Headquarters, State Area Readiness Command, WV Army National Guard, Charleston, WV. COL Kappa finished his service with the WV Army National Guard at Camp Dawson in Kingwood, WV; first serving as the Director of Facilities of Army Training Site from 1992 to 1996; and lastly, Commander of the 197th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, from 1997 until his retirement on March 12, 2001.

Prior to his illness, COL Kappa enjoyed being outdoors boating, fishing, hunting, traveling with his wife, Kim and grew to enjoy antiquing and collecting

with her. We have heard rumor that his vintage rooster collection is legendary.

Following his retirement from the WV Army National Guard, COL Kappa was appointed by then Governor Wise as the State Director, Office of Emergency Services until his next retirement in April 2005. Among his numerous achievements, awards and decorations include the Army Bronze Star Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 devices, Expert Infantry Badge, Senior Army Aviator Badge, Ranger Tab, two Overseas Service Bars, West Virginia Achievement Ribbon, WV Emergency Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, WV State Service Ribbon with three Oak Leaf Clusters, WV Service Ribbon with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished West Virginian Award for Meritorious Service in State Government (2005), Small Business Administration's Phoenix Award for Outstanding Service by a Public Official in Disaster Operations (2004), and Inductee to the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame, Ft. Benning, GA, for distinguished military leadership (2001).

The family would like to thank his long-time physicians, Dr. Enrique Sta Ana, Dr. Marciano Lee and Julie, along with their staff, for their exceptional care that spanned several decades. His wife, Kim, would like to extend a special thank you to his caregivers, Megan and Leanne, for their loving care, and Ascension Catholic Church of Hurricane for the years of spiritual support. The family is beyond grateful for the support and care provided by the entire staff of HospiceCare, Charleston office.

Condolences may be extended online to the family on his tribute page at: ww

w.chapmanfuneralhomes.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to HospiceCare, Charleston, WV; Ascension Catholic Church Hurricane, WV; or Putnam County Animal Shelter Red House, WV.

Family and friends may pay their respects at Chapman Funeral Home Winfield, WV on Sunday April 28, 2024 from 2:00 to 4:00pm.

Funeral Service will be 12:00 noon Monday April 29, 2024 at Chapman Funeral Home Winfield, WV followed by military honors conducted at Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery in Dunbar, WV.

Chapman Funeral Home 12848 Winfield Road Winfield, WV 25213 is honored to serve the Kappa family.

Cemetery Details

Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery

130 Academy Drive
Dunbar, WV 25064

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 28. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home, Winfield
12848 Winfield Road
Winfield, WV 25213
(304) 586-2542
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Funeral Service

APR 29. 12:00 PM (ET)

Chapman Funeral Home, Winfield
12848 Winfield Road
Winfield, WV 25213
(304) 586-2542
info@chapmanfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.chapmanfuneralhomes.com>

Tribute Wall

BT

“ So sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathies to all that are dealing with grief during this time. "Home of the Free, Because of the Brave" Job well done Colonel Kappa! RIP, Mike and Barbara Tipton

Barbara Tipton - April 29, 2024 at 01:45 PM



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of COL. Stephen S. Kappa, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.
My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Army Veteran, COL. Stephen S. Kappa, is "A True American Hero" God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - April 28, 2024 at 05:41 AM

TB

“ Terry and Jeannie Bilskie purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Col. Stephen S. Kappa.



Terry and Jeannie Bilskie - April 27, 2024 at 11:44 AM

TB

“ Terry and Jeannie Bilskie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Col. Stephen S. Kappa.

Terry and Jeannie Bilskie - April 27, 2024 at 11:44 AM

JK

“ Jim Sherrie Kappa lit a candle in memory of Stephen Kappa



Jim and Sherrie Kappa - April 26, 2024 at 07:11 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Col. Stephen S. Kappa.



April 26, 2024 at 04:29 PM

MP

“ Margaret Pudlo purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Col. Stephen S. Kappa.



Margaret Pudlo - April 26, 2024 at 02:51 PM

MS

“ Our family has so many memories of our times with Steve. He was unique to say the least. Thankfully, we stayed in touch over the years, and still consider him to be our brother-in-law. Marcia and Ron

Marcia Shannon - April 26, 2024 at 01:40 PM

PF

“ Peggy, Marcia, Ron, John and families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Col. Stephen S. Kappa.



Peggy, Marcia, Ron, John and families - April 26, 2024 at 01:24 PM

PF

“ Peggy, Marcia, Ron, John and families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Col. Stephen S. Kappa.

Peggy, Marcia, Ron, John and families - April 26, 2024 at 01:24 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Col. Stephen S. Kappa.*



April 26, 2024 at 01:11 PM



“ *Dave & Helene Wanker and Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Col. Stephen S. Kappa.*

Dave & Helene Wanker and Family - April 26, 2024 at 01:11 PM