



Lt. Col. George Richard McKay

September 17, 1943 - June 16, 2019

Lt. Colonel George Richard McKay, US Marine Corps (Ret.) passed away peacefully at his home in Nokesville, Virginia on June 16, 2019, at the age of 75.

Born in 1943 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Norvel R. and Pearl A. McKay, George enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1960 at the age of 17. He was accepted into the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning program. After earning a degree in Civil Engineering from Auburn University, and then his wings, he was commissioned as an officer in 1968. He served as a combat A6 Intruder pilot flying more than 200 missions over Vietnam under the call sign "Jungle." Throughout his career, he received numerous decorations and awards including the Air Medal for acts of heroism on four occasions, and the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for valor for his service in Vietnam. Following his distinguished military career, he retired in 1986 to his farm in Nokesville.

In 1983, he met and married Patti Ryan who was the love of his life for 36 years. Together, they bought and rebuilt his Red Barn Farm in Nokesville and filled his barns with tools and toys that grown-up boys love.

After his military retirement, George flew Falcon 900 jets as a corporate pilot for MCI and then a freelance pilot. He traveled the world but always returned

to his beloved family and farm in Nokesville. During his second retirement, George served his community: in the Nokesville PTO, the Nokesville Civic Association, and on the Prince William County Agriculture and Forestry District Advisory Board. He loved any excuse to buy tools and his third career included building barns, decks, and horse jumps, plus renovating, buying, and selling houses.

His fourth and last career as a Gentleman Farmer who raised Texas Longhorns, pigs, chickens, bees and grass fed beef, kept him busy in his later years. He was a woodworker and cabinet maker and rebuilt the farmhouse into a home filled with love and laughter.

George had no sense of danger when it came to bull riding, sky diving, bungee jumping, scuba diving, or race car driving, and never once turned down a dare.

He was known for cheering on his kids in their various sports, sharing a few cold ones with friends, surviving Hurricane Bob, and constantly wrecking his truck. He was the worst paintball player in the history of the sport and we all learned it was suicidal to follow his lead in storming a hill.

He lived a life with no regrets. He will always be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, loyal friend, and a great patriot. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held at Greenwich Presbyterian Church in the old chapel on Thursday, June 20 at 6:30 pm with a reception afterward.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to The Captain Joseph House Foundation are appreciated. This non-profit corporation, founded by the grieving mother of a fallen Army Green Beret in Afghanistan, provides counselors and support to the Gold Star Families of our military's Fallen heroes.

Captain Joseph House Foundation

1108 South Oak Street

Port Angeles, WA 98362

<https://captainjosephhousefoundation.org/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **20**. 6:30 PM (ET)

Greenwich Presbyterian Church
15305 Vint Hill Rd.
Nokesville, VA 20181
(703) 754-7933
office@greenwichpres.org
<http://greenwichpres.org/>

Tribute Wall

SF

“ Sorry to hear of his passing Iflew with George at MCI on their Falcons, solid pilot. Condolences to his family 🙏.

Sam Fuller - November 13, 2022 at 01:34 AM

HO

“ Jungle was the Senior Marine at VT-86 in Pensacola. His mentorship was singularly responsible for my winging as a Naval Flight Officer. About a year after I graduated from the flight program we met up again, not as instructor/student, but as squadron mates. George was a hell of a lot of fun to be in an attack squadron with. Great guy.

Hog - April 05, 2021 at 10:17 AM

CU

“ I just today learned of George's passing, and I extend my heart-felt condolences to his family.

I never met George, but I knew of him through his wife Pate, who was my roommate in college. When Pate met George, she shared with me her great love for this man and, as old-fashioned as it may sound, he completed her. I wish I could have met this patriotic, adventurous, family-loving, good man. Pate, his family, and the world are certainly sadder without him.

Chris

Christine Ulanski - March 01, 2021 at 09:24 AM

PD

“ *Let us not be sad because George has met Jesus and now helps St. Peter guard the gates, REJOYCE in the fact that because he was born others lived, whether it was because of the lives he saved in Vietnam, or the lives he touched. REJOYCE that you knew him, laughed with him, and his actions have created memories you will store in your mental treasure chest and those actions have ensued the blanket of freedom that was passed to him is the blanket we now wrap ourselves in daily. Peter Dvorscak, Marine*

Peter Dvorscak - June 20, 2019 at 07:47 AM