



James G. Boatner

March 28, 1930 - October 7, 2017

Major General James G. Boatner
U.S. Army (retired)

Of Mount Vernon, dedicated soldier and devoted family man, died peacefully while sleeping on October 7, 2017. He was 87 years old.

Jim Boatner was born on March 28, 1930 in Tianjin, China where his father was stationed with the US Army's 15th Infantry. The son, grandson, and father of career infantry officers, he grew up on Army posts and in military towns in the depression era and during World War II. He graduated from high school in San Antonio, Texas, and attended Texas A&M University before entering West Point in 1947. Upon graduating in 1951, he was commissioned in the infantry and served in combat during the Korean War, returning to the historic 15th Infantry ('Old China Hands') as a company commander. Years later, after retiring from the Army, he proudly served for four years as the Honorary Colonel of the 15th Infantry Regiment.

On the luckiest day of his life, Jim met Kathryn "Kay" Schroeter of Cleveland, Ohio, on a blind date, and they were married in Dallas, Texas, in 1954.

His troop assignments were primarily with light infantry units, including in both the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions. In 1958, he attended Harvard

University earning two Master's Degrees in preparation for teaching back at West Point in the Social Sciences Department. In 1967, he trained and then deployed a light infantry battalion to Vietnam. During his career, General Boatner also had extensive experience in Washington, D.C. serving as an assistant to the deputy Secretary of Defense, David Packard. His notable general officer assignments were commanding all Army forces in Alaska, including the 172nd Arctic Light Infantry Brigade, and US Commander in West Berlin just before the end of the Cold War. He retired in 1986 with 35 years of service.

For fourteen years after his military retirement, Jim was President and then Chairman of the Board of Robinson Terminal Warehouse Corporation in Old Town, Alexandria, the Washington Post's newspaper warehousing facility. He and Kay were also longtime active parishioners of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Mount Vernon where he served on the social justice committee, and volunteered as a mentor and advocate for low-income mental health patients. He was also a proud member of the West Point class of 1951, regularly attending monthly D.C.-area luncheons and leading the planning for the class 60th reunion in May 2011.

Jim was predeceased by his loving wife of over 62 years, Kay, in March 2017. He is survived by his five children, son Jim and wife Nancy of Clifton, Virginia, son Tom and wife Lisa of Boise, Idaho, son Mike and wife Tricia of Colorado Springs, Colorado, daughter Jane and husband Dudley and son Peter and wife Anne of Charlottesville, Virginia; as well as nine grandchildren.

A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated for General Boatner at the Fort Meyer Chapel followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, 8305 Richmond Hwy Suite 17B, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Tribute Wall



“ James G. Boatner

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ I went to Berlin with my wife a couple times. Once I drove. they told us not to trade with the Russians. I took a stack of Playboy Magazines and put them on the floor behind my seat. When we got to Check Point Alpha the Russian Officer ask if I wanted to trade with him I said sure. He asked what did I have so I handed him a copy. Of course he open to the center fold. The joke was on him they were all in German. So I get to Check Point Bravo and get the riot act read to me with the 8x10's with the circles and arrows on each one. Then I get the hundred questions about everything I saw. This Black Female Captain was giving it to me real good, when all of a sudden she stops. She said I'll be right back, I ask where are you going? She said the General is coming and I need to see what he wants. I said he wants me. Then all of a sudden she became very disorientated. She said you wait right here and walked out of the room. I went to the doorway and stood there as Ken walked in the door. She walked up to him and asked if the General was here? Ken said no. He yelled over to me are you ready to go and I said no she won't let me leave. Ken looks at her and said what's the matter the General sent me to escort him back to the Head Quarters. She turns to me and said who are you, I simply replied I don't think you have a need to know. Ken again said can he go to her? By then she was falling all over herself getting me out the door. Ken was the Aide-De-Camp to General Boatner and he was my brother-in-law. There's more to the story but this was the funniest part. I was just sharing this on Face Book. He was a very nice person, I didn't know he had passed. I'll tell my sister. I know she cared very much for him.

Harold Taffner - April 23, 2020 at 08:14 PM



“ *My Deepest Condolences go out to the Boatner family, I hope you find comfort in these words, "He will swallow up death forever,.....And will wipe away the tears from all faces. Isaiah 25:8. We want to trust in Jehovah God's, promise of the resurrection hope. jw.org*

November 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. Please find comfort in God's sure promise of a resurrection as set forth in the Bible. (Acts 24:15; John 5:28,29) Those who are raised to life will have the prospect of never again being subject to misery, sickness, or death. (Revelation 21:4) I hope that reflecting on these thoughts will give you some relief during this difficult time.*

October 11, 2017 at 12:00 AM