



## Col. John J. O'Keefe

September 22, 1939 - July 18, 2020

COL John J. O'Keefe, 80 of Fort Belvoir, VA passed away on Saturday, July 18, 2020. He was born on September 22, 1939, in Dickinson, North Dakota to Albert and Hazel O'Keefe. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, (Gumpy), and great-grandfather. Col O'Keefe proudly served in the US Army Field Artillery (Redleg) over 30 years which included two Combat Tours in Vietnam, and later as the Commander of the Third Infantry Division Artillery. He served in the Knights of Columbus, was active in support of the retired military community and with many Veterans associations, and actively participated in the initial planning for the National Museum of the United States Army. COL O'Keefe is survived by his daughter Elizabeth M. Egbert, two sons, John J. O'Keefe II and Patrick J. O'Keefe, two sisters, Janet Auble and Marcia O'Keefe, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lynn O'Keefe on February 22, 2020, and three brothers. A Funeral Mass and interment with Full Military Honors will be conducted at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined. Information regarding the date for the Funeral Mass and Interment at Arlington National Cemetery will be published on the Jefferson Funeral Chapel web site once confirmed. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make memorial contributions to the Concussion Legacy Foundation, 361 Newbury Street 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02115 ([www.concussionfoundation.org/CTE-resources](http://www.concussionfoundation.org/CTE-resources)).



# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive  
Arlington, VA 22211

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 5. 10:45 AM (ET)

Fort Myer Old Post Chapel  
204 Lee Ave  
Fort Myer, VA 22211

# Tribute Wall



“ *Col. John J. O’Keefe*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *I WAS A CLASSMATE AND CLOSE FRIEND OF JOHN THROUGH K-12. JOHN WAS A GREAT ATHLETE AND A GREAT PERSON. HE ALWAYS GAVE 105% AT WHAT EVER HE DID. I LAST SAW JOHN AT OUR 30TH CLASS REUNION IN ABERDEEN. IT WAS SAD TO HAVE RECEIVED NEWS OF HIS PASSING AS WELL AS HIS WIFE. MAY JOHN AND HIS WIFE REST IN PEACE. DEAN OTTO GERDES, CLASS OF 57'*

**DEAN OTTO GERDES** - February 05, 2021 at 06:04 PM



*Both members of the great class of '57.  
Going, going, gone...*

**Gordon** - June 29, 2024 at 09:47 AM



“ *I attended Sacred Heart school in Aberdeen, SD with John and then, Aberdeen Central High School. He was always a fun guy and a good guy. After graduation from HS in 1957, I only saw him at an occasional class reunions. Was happy to know him in our young days. Laurel Costello, Class of 1957*

**Laurel Costello** - February 04, 2021 at 02:14 PM



*Remember when we all came together in the 9th grade.  
Best class, ever. Class of '57 had it's dream...*

**Gordon** - June 29, 2024 at 09:49 AM

JP

“ A good man and great boss. Let me do my job and always had my back. One of a kind. Rest in Peace sir.

*John Paolucci.*

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**John Paolucci** - July 23, 2020 at 09:12 AM

SW

“ God bless. Rest in eace Colonel John O'Keefe. Been a long journey.

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**Scott Wilson** - July 22, 2020 at 06:15 AM

AB

“ One of the greatest people that I ever worked with. Being around him was always a bright spot in the day. Be at home with our Creator and wife and family there awaiting.

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**Albert (Doug) Brown** - July 20, 2020 at 07:14 PM