



Col. Lewis Jordan Ashley

July 14, 1927 - October 13, 2020

Col. Lewis Jordan Ashley (USA Retired) of Alexandria, Virginia, died peacefully in his sleep on Oct 13, 2020. Lew was born in Charleston, WV, the son of Sewell Jordan Ashley and Macel Hyer. He moved with his family to Phoenix, AZ as a youth. He loved the wide-open desert environment and quickly adopted Phoenix as his hometown. After graduating from Phoenix Union High School, Lew volunteered for the U. S Army.

Lew served in the U.S. Army, in a variety of command and staff assignments in the U.S. and overseas, including Korea and two tours of duty in Vietnam. As a Colonel he commanded an Infantry Brigade and later served as the principal assistant to the Under Secretary of the Army. He attended Syracuse University where he was awarded a BS Degree, Economics, and George Washington University where he was awarded an MBA, International Affairs. He was selected and served as a Fellow at the Harvard University Center for International Affairs for a year.

After retiring from the Army, he worked as a professional staff member in the U.S. Senate for several years. This included service on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Budget Committee, and as Legislative Director on the staff of a U.S. Senator. After leaving the Senate he served as Chief of the Budget Office, Conservation and Renewable Energy Division, DOE. He began work at the Army Materiel Command (AMC) as the leader of the Ground

Combat Systems Team, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development, and Acquisition.

For over 20 years, Col. Ashley served as the Special Assistant to the Commander AMC on business/industry matters (Ombudsman). He was widely known and highly regarded by senior leaders of government and industry for his knowledge and understanding of each community and his ability to work with both, to address issues and develop timely solutions resulting in greatly improved support to war fighters.

He was also active in community affairs and has served on: the Board of Directors of Commonwealth One Federal Credit Union, Alexandria, Virginia; the Advisory Board of Directors, Association of the U.S. Army; the Administrative Board, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria, Virginia; and member and Chairman of the President's Advisory Council, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.

Col. Ashley was predeceased by his son, Todd Ashley, and daughter Kathy Ashley. He is survived by his wife Linda, daughters Patricia Estey and her husband Chip, Kristen Henderson, 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Lew's honor to Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

The burial will take place at Arlington National Cemetery on Jan 27, 2021 at 11:00 am.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Tribute Wall

CB

“ I was the admin NCO to GEN Paul Kern while working at HQAMC. Mr. Ashley was an entire internet system within himself. One of his many jobs that he performed with finesse was serving as the Ombudsman sanitizing contractor relations before the senior leaders met with them. Though nobody else could find papers on his desk - he could go right to a specific document. He had his own filing system that worked very well for him to do all of his duties. Family what a WONDERFUL man and a GREAT LOSS to the United States Military; not just to the Army but to our Nation. I loved talking to him. I came to HQAMC from the Pentagon with GEN Kern. As an junior enlisted soldier Mr. Ashley gave me a few classes on how things worked. He treated me king and had compassion. He welcomed me and saw that there was a need to help me settle in the operations of HQAMC. I will NEVER, EVER forget him. A life well served indeed!!!!

Cassandra Barnes - November 02, 2024 at 06:57 PM



“ Col. Lewis Jordan Ashley

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM

LT

“ Lew - Your great grandson, Eban Tracy, aspires to follow in your footsteps of service to our country and he wants to fly - just like you did. All our love, Lindsay and Ryan Tracy

lindsay morgan tracy - October 19, 2020 at 10:47 AM

KS

“Lew was a force of nature. He truly valued the AMC mission and gave it his all. He understood and appreciated the intricate relationship between DoD and the Defense industry and ensured those of us in that world understood and appreciated it also. And while he was always impeccably dressed, he had the messiest desk in the entire AMC universe. God speed Lew. Kathi Szymanski



Kathryn Szymanski - October 17, 2020 at 11:08 AM

KS

“Oh what a soldier, leader, character-inspiring mentor and dear friend Lew has been. I'm sad to hear this somber news. Kate and I raise prayers of deep gratitude for Lew's life and impact, his rich and abiding faith in our loving God, and of support for family members now, especially Linda and Grandson Tanner. With heartfelt thanks and honor in unison with so many from our grateful Nation, Chaplain Ken Sampson

Kenneth Sampson - October 16, 2020 at 02:54 PM

CM

“This saddens me greatly. Lew was such a fine man, a warrior and a gentleman with a mind and grip like a steel trap. I was the Army Materiel Command command sergeant major when Lew was the Ombudsman. His ability to recall the names and positions of innumerable people in business was incredible, and he personally knew many of their CEOs, presidents and VPs. One of my fondest memories of Lew was every time we met, he would extend his hand, grasp mine in his vise-like grip, and give a vigorous shake. Farewell, my friend. Rest in peace, old Soldier.

CSM(R) Jeff Mellinger - October 16, 2020 at 12:54 PM

JC

“ Jackie Cowdrey lit a candle in memory of Col. Lewis Jordan Ashley



Jackie Cowdrey - October 15, 2020 at 08:36 PM

JC

It is with sadness that I send this message. I worked with Lew for many years at HQ AMC and he taught me so much. We also had such a great time at our get togethers with other AMC friends at dinner. Lew was the only man most of the time and he loved it! Thank you Lew RIP!

Jackie Cowdrey - October 15, 2020 at 08:40 PM

MP

It is with deep sadness that this great American has departed from this earth! No task nor person was too small to obtain Lew's undivided attention! He personified excellence in all that he set out to accomplish. Lew will be sorely missed!

Peet Proctor, MG (R)

MG (R) Hawthorne Proctor - October 22, 2020 at 08:15 PM

BD

“ *It is with deepest sorrow that I learned of Lew's death. We worked together at AMC and became friends during that time. I was his Assistant, but we were a team. I will always cherish our friendship both during our working years, and as retirees. My deepest condolences to the family. Respectfully - Barbara Dailey*

Barbara Dailey - October 15, 2020 at 06:55 PM

MG

I am so sorry to hear about Lew's passing. We worked together at AMC until 2010 when I retired. What a wonderful man he was. I admired him greatly. Never could figure out how he found anything in his office though but he could always find whatever he was looking for. Sending prayers to surround his wife and Family.

Marion Carter, Georgia - October 16, 2020 at 12:17 AM

BG

“*Our sincere condolences to the Ashley family. Lew was my mentor for over fifteen years. We worked closely during numerous AUSA and NDIA Symposia. He was the finest professional I have ever worked with. Beyond his outstanding achievements, he always had time to share, motivate and teach. Lew Ashley was one of a kind: A great Civil Servant, a fine military officer; a dedicated Christian and to me a wonderful friend. He will be missed. RIP*

Barry Gangi - October 15, 2020 at 06:04 PM