



Marjorie Ellen Kehler

April 9, 1953 - June 6, 2023

Marjorie Ellen Kehler (70)

Passed away Tuesday, June 6, 2023, of Alexandria, VA. Loving wife to C. Robert Kehler; loving mother to Matthew Scott Kehler (Danielle) and Jared Paul Kehler (Kaylee); sister to Richard Kitner, Phyllis Irwin (Jack), and Donald Kitner (Joan); grandmother to Aaron Joseph Kehler and Dustin Edward Kehler. She will truly be missed by many.

Marj Kehler was a loving mother and grandmother, caring sister, accomplished professional, amazing wife, and active participant in her husband's military career. Marj grew up in the North Hills section of Pittsburgh and attended North Allegheny High School and modeling school. She enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1971 and served until 1981 initially as a financial expert then as one of the first women to qualify as an air traffic controller. Her service took her to various duty locations including the Panama Canal Zone, Oregon, and Montana, where she met her future husband.

Marj's sons and grandsons were her pride and joy. She balanced her devotion as a mother and wife with her desire to get an accounting degree and spent countless hours preparing late into the night for her college classes. After 10 years of committed effort spanning four different universities, she received her bachelor's degree from George Mason University. Even after receiving her

degree, she put her family first. Marj set aside her career aspirations until her children were older and then worked in a number of accounting positions as military life took her family across the country. She took enormous pride in nurturing her two sons and watching as they became outstanding young men. She was especially delighted to be blessed with two amazing grandsons.

Marj was a full partner as her husband rose in the military ranks. Through his career and beyond she was his best friend, closest confidant, and wisest counselor. Her natural grace and selflessness drew people to her from all walks of life. She listened carefully, never judged, and made friends easily in the highly mobile military family environment. Marj's patriotism and personal involvement in the welfare of the military and civilian communities earned her the respect and admiration of all with whom she associated. Her contributions continue to be seen and felt in many prominent institutions and key family and community support agencies across America. Her service organizing and sewing adaptive clothing for wounded warriors was a special commitment for her. She remains the love of her husband's life.

A woman of great Christian faith, love, and compassion, Marj was a parishioner of Nativity Lutheran Church where she was an active member of Simple Quilts for Charity, sewing and delivering quilts for those in need including wounded warriors. Her boundless faith formed the basis of the courage, determination, and serenity she showed during her 9 year battle with cancer and other medical issues.

Marj's greatest passions were her family, sewing, and cooking. Her family aches with her loss but is comforted knowing that she is at peace in God's loving hands.

Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315 on Friday, June 16, 2023, from 5-8PM. Funeral

Service to be held at Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308, on Saturday, June 17, at 3PM. Interment at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) <https://www.bcrf.org/> or METAvivor <https://www.metavivor.org/>.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Viewing

JUN 16. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 17. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Nativity Lutheran Church
1300 Collingwood Rd,
Alexandria, VA 22308
nativitylutheran1@gmail.com
<https://www.nativityministries.org>

Tribute Wall

CJ

“*Marj, you were an incredible support and friend to our family when we were so far from home. When we welcomed Teddy in 2012, you were round at my house, quick as a flash, keen and ready to help. I was rather at a loss as to what I could get you to do, but there we were, folding laundry in my completely disheveled house. My husband was mortified that ‘the General’s wife’ had been folding his underwear and socks. What a laugh! Of course you took it all in your stride, because you were just down to earth. Your love for your family, and in particular, your brand new grandson, was something special. To love and to be loved as you were, and still are, is a wonderful thing. Thank you for being a friend, and a wonderful support. You were modest and unassuming, and keen to avoid the limelight, but it didn’t exactly work, because people could easily see how great you were. I hope you’re at peace now. Our lives are the better for having known you. Carleen xxxx*

Carleen Jones - July 13, 2025 at 09:43 AM

BJ

“*Marj, my dear friend. I knew something wasn't right when I didn't get an email back from you. I'm just now finding out that you went home to be with our father, so apologies for the late entry. Marj and I met at VAFB years ago. She was as down to earth as they come. I remember sitting in a town hall meeting together while Bob spoke to the crowd. She would whisper jokes in my ear and dare me to keep it together! LOL God I miss her so much. Rest peacefully my dear friend. Love to Bob and the family...you are in my prayers. Love Betty James*



Betty James - August 20, 2023 at 12:07 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.*



June 22, 2023 at 05:06 PM



“ *I met Marj on the plane to Lackland AFB in 1971. We did basic together and then were Stationed at Sheppard for our schools. She often talked of her brother whom she called Beans. Im sure he outgrew that name. We kept in touch through letters of and on through the years. we reconnected thanks to the development of computers. Im glad she had such a great life with a terrific family.*
LuJean

LuJean Bernstein - June 21, 2023 at 06:22 PM



“ *Marj was always a joy and we had many good times, particularly while Bob was volunteering at fire department. Will miss her loving presence in this world. Prayers for Bob and his boys.*

Maureen Yannuzzi - June 18, 2023 at 02:15 PM



“ *Alison H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.*

Alison H. - June 15, 2023 at 10:09 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.*



June 15, 2023 at 07:39 AM



“ *Don & Joan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.*



Don & Joan - June 14, 2023 at 06:10 PM



“ *Bob,*

I am so sorry to hear of Marjorie's passing. It is always hard to lose a spouse after so many years of love and friendship. You are in Donna's and my prayers.

Bill Riley

William Austin Riley - June 13, 2023 at 08:33 AM

C(

“ Gen Kehler (Bob), I am so sorry to learn that you have lost your partner in life. I’ve read many of the glowing tributes about your Marj and it is obvious she provided the support that all of us need as we go through our careers. The grieving will be tough to begin with but happy memories will replace the really tough times. My Karen has been gone since 2008 and sometimes tears just show up unannounced and they will for you too! I am very sorry for your loss. Prayers to you and your family.

Jim Webb

Col Jim Webb (Retired) - June 13, 2023 at 02:23 AM

JM

“ Julio & Doris Martinez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.

Julio & Doris Martinez - June 12, 2023 at 09:43 PM

JM

“ Julio & Doris Martinez purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.



Julio & Doris Martinez - June 12, 2023 at 09:43 PM

RH

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Marj's passing. She was a wonderful lady, mentoring me and my wife through USAF assignments and life. I miss her dry sense of humor and devotion to those surrounding her. I send fond greetings to Bob and family.

Ron Haeckel - June 12, 2023 at 04:59 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.

June 12, 2023 at 03:39 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.



June 12, 2023 at 03:39 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.



June 12, 2023 at 12:25 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.



June 12, 2023 at 12:21 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.* ”



June 12, 2023 at 10:21 AM

AG

“ Mrs. Kehler always insisted on being called "Marj"--always reminding us that Mrs. Kehler was her mother-in-law--but in the most genuine, respectful kind of way. She was 'like that.' She was always humble, always. I worked for General Kehler for the 3 years that he was Commander of AF Space Command in Colorado Springs and truth be known, Marj was truly the heartbeat of our time together in that entire front office relationship! She always knew exactly what to do, she knew the right questions to ask, always had the perfect answer to every challenge and made us all feel like an integral part of the team. She was genuine, caring, humble and truly kind. When I lost my brother to cancer in 2010, she sent flowers all the way to Guam and she and the General were among the first to send condolences and support. Her work with Sew Much Comfort and all the various other charities that she championed were ALWAYS about caring for military members, Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors alike. She adored her family most of all and every year as the in-laws and grandkids were added to their growing family, the Christmas letters became more and more endearing. She was indeed an angel on earth--and her presence will always remain in the hearts and lives of those she touched.

Rest in peace Marj. I will never forget you! Sir, my sincerest condolences. You have truly lost a wonderful partner on earth, but what a joy she will bring to the heavens! Sending you and the family my love and support--and strength for the journey ahead. May she always be the bright light that shines down on all of you!

*With sympathy,
Angie (AFSPC/CCS, 2009-2011)*

Angie Guerrero - June 12, 2023 at 09:26 AM

ML

“ Mrs. Kehler (Marj) was a trailblazer in listening, truly caring, and advocating for changes in policy to help military families. All military families today owe her a debt of gratitude for the example she set and the impact she made as a senior military spouse. She set in motion a more engaged and participatory role that continues to this day. This engagement ultimately resulted in improvements in many family issues, including spouse employment and exceptional family member programs. She was a remarkable woman and I am forever grateful for the kindness and compassion she showed me and my military family.

Michelle Linn - June 11, 2023 at 09:44 PM

AH

“ Throughout Bob’s time with Inmarsat we had the pleasure to meet Marj several times and recognise the words written about her and her ease at being with everyone. Sincere condolences from the Inmarsat family to Bob, and all family members She will be deeply and sadly missed.

Alison Horrocks - June 11, 2023 at 09:59 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.



June 10, 2023 at 02:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.

June 10, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.*



June 10, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.

June 10, 2023 at 11:00 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Marjorie Ellen Kehler.*



June 08, 2023 at 07:42 PM