



Richard John Knapp

October 2, 1943 - June 25, 2023

Colonel (US Army Retired) Richard J. “Dick” Knapp passed away peacefully in his home on June 25th, 2023. He was born to Richard John Knapp, Sr and Georgianna (Haas) Knapp in Dayton, Ohio on October 2, 1943. He was the second of thirteen Knapp children and attended the school built by his parents, St. John the Baptist school in Excelsior Minnesota. He graduated from Benilde High School in 1961 and St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN in 1965 when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Armor, through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

Early in his career, Colonel Knapp was associated primarily with armored and cavalry units. He served in a variety of command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. Noteworthy of these assignments was command of a tank company in Germany from 1966 to 1967, two armored cavalry troops in Vietnam in 1968 and an armored cavalry troop in Germany from 1974 to 1975. He was selected to be the first Professor of Military Science (ROTC) at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and held that position from June 1981, until June 1984. His other assignments used his expertise in information systems. He was a Personnel Systems Officer at TRADOC from 1972 to 1974, the Chief of the World Wide Military Command and Control System Branch at the Defense Nuclear Agency from 1978 to 1981, Commander of an Automation Management Information Center in Taegu, South Korea from 1984 to 1986, a member of the Army Secretariat as Chief of

the Plans Division for the Director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications, and Computers from 1986 to 1988, followed by the Chief of Staff of the Reserve Component Automation System Program Management Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In 1990, he assumed command of the Army's Software Development Center – Washington. He retired in September 1992. Following his military career, Colonel Knapp was a program manager for EER systems and L3-Communications from 1993 to 2002. As such he supported the government in information systems projects. From 2005 to present, he was an independent contractor, supporting training exercises associated with USIS, PAE and GDIT.

Dick held a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from St. John's University and a Master of Arts degree in Industrial Management from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. His professional military education included attendance at the Armor Officer's, Basic Course, Fort Knox, KY, the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Benning, GA, the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA, and the Defense Systems Management College, Fort Belvoir, VA.

His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. He was airborne qualified.

Throughout his career, Dick dedicated his non-military time to church and community activities. He was chairman of the Saint Louis Catholic Church Pastoral Council from 1988 to 2000. He was the founding chairman of the St. John's and Saint Benedict's Alumni Chapter in Washington DC. He was a member of the board of the Southeast Fairfax County Development Corporation (2011- present), and chaired its Marketing, Planning, and

Transportation Committee (2014- present). In 2016, he served on the Old Mount Vernon H.S. Re-Utilization Task Force, and later served on the Steering Committee from 2017 to present. From 2015 to present, he co chaired the Fairfax County Advisory Group EMBARK dedicated to the widening of Richmond Highway and implementation of Bus Rapid Transit. He chaired the Pinewood Lake Marketing Committee from 2003 to present after serving on its board from 1980 - 1981. He was awarded the honor of “Lord Fairfax 2017“ for Lee District, Fairfax County. He loved racquetball, golf, and travel.

Dick was absolutely loyal to everything he held dear: his Catholic faith, his alma mater, his friends, his country and his family. He was a man who never met a stranger, and once he considered you his friend, you had a friend for life. He was well-versed in a variety of subjects, and could hold a room with his wit and wisdom. He loved to provoke thoughts and conversation in his audience, especially when interacting with a promising teenager. He respected well thought out opinions, even if they differed from his own.

Dick met the love of his life, Lone Grubich in Friedberg, Germany, and were married on August 12, 1967 in Lake Benton, Minnesota. They spent the better part of their lives together, first, traveling the world for their country, and then traveling the world for each other. Dick was an unabashed conservative, but served in the Army under three Democratic, and four Republican Commanders in Chief, and served each of them with complete loyalty and integrity. Upon visiting all seven continents, (some multiple times) he admitted they were spending their children and grandchildren’s inheritance. But in reality, Dick’s children and grandchildren inherited what is truly important: Love of God, love of Country and Love of Family.

Colonel Dick Knapp is survived by his loving wife Lone, their children and spouses; Julie and Matt Uyemura, Paula and Kevin Cooper, Steven and Kathryn Knapp. He is survived by his 13 grandchildren and spouses; David

and Genevieve Cooper, Grant Cooper, Kayla and Jacob Imber, Madelyn and Garret Mix, Tyler, Zachary, Lauryn, and Delaney Uyemura, Kiely, Emily, John Paul, William and Catherine Knapp, and one great granddaughter, Sophia Imber. He is also survived by five brothers and five sisters, many nieces and nephews, and relatives. He was preceded in death by his brothers Michael and Gregory Knapp and parents Richard J. Knapp Sr and Georgianna Haas Knapp.

Colonel Richard Knapp's wake is at the Jefferson Chapel Thursday, July 6 from 3 to 7 PM. His funeral is at Saint Louis Catholic Church on Friday, July 7 at 11 AM. The live streaming information for the funeral is on the Saint Louis Catholic Church website [www.SaintLouisParish.org] .

DICK SUPPORTED THE LITTLE WORKERS OF SACRED HEARTS.
DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO THEIR LINK [<http://www.lwshptclinic.com>] IN
LIEU OF FLOWERS

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive
Arlington, VA 22211

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Louis Catholic Church
2907 Popkins Ln
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 765-4421

Tribute Wall

HC

“ Just seeing this...
I had the pleasure of serving with COL Knapp in Taegu within the period '83-'85. He and lone, along with Steve and Paula, were quite active in community affairs on Camp Walker and richly deserved the "Great American Family" award they had earned. Dick's service to the mission and family community was exemplary. I was greatly honored when he presided over my own retirement in 1991.

Henry Collins - January 24 at 03:09 PM

RW

“ lone and family, my condolences. I served with Col Knapp in Taegu. He was an example of what a leader should be. He placed priorities on his family, the soldiers he led, and the unit's mission. One of the greatest honors I had was to be invited to his retirement ceremony in Fall Church, VA after I had retired. Robert Wild, (MSG, USA, Retired)

Robert R. Wild - August 12, 2024 at 04:01 PM



“ lone and family, I am sorry for your loss. Although I had heard of Dick's passing this past summer, I just found this site. I worked with Dick when he was a Colonel and Chief of Staff with the RCAS Program Management Office. After he had retired and a bit later after I retired, he hired me to be one of his deputies on the program support contract that was awarded to EER Systems. I always found Dick to be a thoughtful mentor and friend. I value the times we worked together either directly or indirectly. I look forward to seeing him at the RCAS reunion in Heaven. God bless and comfort all of you. Jack Oden (LTC, USA, Ret.)

Jack Oden - November 29, 2023 at 09:26 PM

FE

“ *A great honor to work along with Mr. Knapp.*



Felicia - July 11, 2023 at 09:51 PM

TB

“ *We will always remember Uncle Dick as such a special guy! He always had a spark in his eye and a good story! Hannah always looked forward to seeing him as he challenged her and built her up after the accident! We are all so sorry for your loss and will miss him dearly. Our love and prayers are with you all.*

Dave Bressler family

Tacy Bressler - July 06, 2023 at 10:26 PM

JH

“ *The Longworthe Longstriders will never be the same. Dick is the kind of guy who leaves a lasting impression on everyone he meets. The kind of person that most people want to be but can never quite live up to.*



Jennifer Harty - July 06, 2023 at 04:00 PM

JS

“ Dear Ione, Julie, Paula, Steve and families,
Life is abundant and life is beautiful -- and Dick epitomized that throughout his life. When Dick Knapp was in your life, that life was so much the better. Indeed mine was. I shall always be grateful for Dick's friendship, guidance and support especially after my Mike passed. A man of God, strength and solid character - a beautiful character -- he was there for his family, friends, neighbors, his community and country.

A most delightful man to be around with his effervescence and positive attitude towards life, it's hard to believe I won't see that smiling face, hear some witty remark and laugh with him again.

As one of those "feel good" people that thankfully the good Lord graces us with from time to time, and a blessing on many levels, he was a joy to know, a good friend to me and to my husband Mike, a patriot - a stand up guy! My heart tho is so sad, I will miss him in this world very much.

Joanna Stafford (and Mike with wings)

Joanna Stafford - July 06, 2023 at 02:52 PM

CW

“ I met Dick in July 1995. We were working together on the RCAS program. Since meeting him, I have always considered him to be one of my favorite "golf buddies". While so much fun to be around socially, he was the consummate professional. It was my honor and privilege our Father in Heaven allowed one of his angels to shepherd me through this life. While always pushing and encouraging others toward success, he always seemed shocked when he hit a great golf shot. To the untrained eye, those who knew him, he was far better than "average". I am especially pleased that he helped shepherd my daughter Adrienne (aka "Smudge") and her daughter Sara. After nearly every handshake and hug when we met, he would immediately ask, "How is Smudge and Sara?" God bless him, his entire family, and they all recognize, to paraphrase C.S. Lewis, "He is in paradise."



Carl & Jolene Ward - July 04, 2023 at 10:18 AM

SB

“ *The Knapp family are Pro-Life hero's from the moment of conception till NATURAL death. Col Knapp was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was told he had a week to live so the ICU doctors recommended removing his endotracheal tube since he only had a week to live (so they thought) ... No, the Knapp clan (and many of us) decided to pray daily intercessory prayers to the Servant of God, Fr Vincent Capodanno, and pray our Lord to give Col Knapp more time, even a miracle if it was His Divine Will. Our Lord gave Col Knapp almost 4 more months of precious time to be with his beloved family and to be apart (spiritually), the marriage of 2 grand children 🙏. His final days on earth , I am certain, brought many souls closer to Our Lord... redemptive suffering is precious in the eyes of God. Thank you Col. Knapp for always reaching out to help others, even with your last breath.*

Ora pro nobis, The Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts,

Sr Deirdre Byrne - July 04, 2023 at 08:42 AM

HL

“ I am truly sad to have to write this note. Myung-Hee and I will miss Dick dearly. We first met you in Daegu, South Korea where Dick at that time assumed command of AMIC, a data processing center. At nearly the same time, Ione and Myung-Hee also became friends.

Dick, Ione, Myung-Hee and I became traveling friends in 2008 when we took a Northern European cruise together. In Helsinki, we enjoyed the first of many ice cream cones. For the next 15 years, we cruised the rivers, seas and oceans of the world. We added many land trips to supplement the cruises. We will miss Dick's sense of humor and wordsmithing. Dick enjoyed using the Korean language and when we met Koreans in our travels, he would proudly introduce himself as the father of twins in near perfect Korean.

Dick served his country for 27 years but his service to others extended far beyond that. He epitomized duty, honor, country. He did his duty serving in the Armed Forces, as father to his family and a member of the community. He honored his profession, Catholicism, and family. He proudly served his country. But above all else, Dick loved Ione, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchild.

Yes, we will miss Dick. I will miss talking about taboo subjects over ice cream in the Lido restaurant on a Holland America ship. I will miss his humor, joking and serious reflection. I will miss visiting with him the many Catholic churches we encountered in our travels. Dick won't spend much time in Purgatory. He did a good job. Saint Peter is waiting for him at the pearly gates.

Howard Lee - July 03, 2023 at 08:52 PM

WM

“ *My heartfelt and deepest sympathy. He was one of our D Troop family as well.*

William Miller - July 03, 2023 at 04:15 PM

MS

“ *Malena Stidham lit a candle in memory of Richard John Knapp*



Malena Stidham - July 03, 2023 at 02:36 PM

MD

“ *lone, Julie, Paula, Steven and families: There are no words to express how sorry we are for the great loss of our Dick Knapp. A man we truly looked up to with the utmost respect. A man true to his convictions of God-Family-Country. A man forever striving for knowledge in every aspect of his life. Adventurous, curious, fun loving, loving, witty, caring, and above all, a wonderful and inspiring example of a husband, father, and grandfather. All our love and may you find strength and blessings in the days ahead with many joyful memories of a man we will all never forget.*

Marion, Judy, Janet, Marilyn, Dave - June 28, 2023 at 10:06 AM

MD

Marion, Judy, Janet, Marilyn, Dave

Marion, Judy, Janet, Marilyn, Dave - June 28, 2023 at 10:09 AM

SW

“*Dick and I went through training together back in 2005. He was a thought provoking guy and could have made a very nice living at stand up comedy if he wanted to. He was a kind, genuine soul and I always looked forward to seeing him at the office. I will miss him.*”

Steve Wiacek - June 28, 2023 at 07:33 AM