



Wouter Karel Vanderwal

October 29, 1937 - April 13, 2021

Wouter Karel Vanderwal (aged 83) passed away on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. He is preceded in death by his loving wife of 28 years, Victoria Marie Vanderwal. He is survived by his daughter, Julia Tomiak (Bill) and his grandchildren, Alexander, Rose, Josh and Eli Tomiak.

Wouter, known to friends and family as “Van”, was born on October 26, 1937 in Padang, Indonesia, which was at that time a colony of The Netherlands. When the Japanese invaded in 1942, Van and his mother were placed in one internment camp and his father was placed in another and did not survive. At the end of WWII, Van and his mother returned to The Netherlands. After completing university studies, Van immigrated to the United States in 1963 and became a naturalized US citizen in 1966. He was drafted into the US Army and served for 26 years in the Signal Corps, including a year in the Vietnam War. He earned numerous awards and honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and multiple Vietnam service medals.

Van met his wife Vicki in El Paso, TX and they were married in 1968. Van retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel and worked afterward as a defense contractor. After his permanent retirement and the death of his wife, he volunteered for many years for the Fairfax County Police Department. He also enjoyed traveling, especially birding trips and tours of historic American

Civil War sites. He is known for enjoying a good joke, a good meal, and readily extending help to family and friends.

A private service will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel on Saturday, April 24th, 2021. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation to either, the National Audubon Society (www.audubon.org) or the Society of Civil War Historians (www.historians.org) in Van's honor.

Tribute Wall



“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Wouter Karel Vanderwal



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - April 20, 2021 at 03:47 PM

NC

Thank you for making this video for those of us who could not be there. We met Vicki and Van at Patch Barracks 1970-74. They guided us through our first shopping trips and driving into Stuttgart, taught us about food in the gasthaus and helped us plan our first driving tour on our to Holland. He was such a good friend, husband, father. I have a mental picture of Van kneeling in front of Vicki and helping her get on her winter boots as she was very pregnant with Julia and couldn't even see her feet much less reach them. They were so happy Vicki was going to have the baby soon and they were smiling at each other. Wonderful memories.

Narni Cahill - April 24, 2021 at 08:57 PM



“ Wouter Karel Vanderwal

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM

CS

“ Van and I served in the 307th Signal Battalion in South Korea in 1976-77, He was the Battalion S-3 (Operations Officer) and I was the Executive Officer. He was a great friend to me and many others in the unit. This was an unaccompanied tour without spouse or dependents. Having recently remarried I received permission to have my wife come over as an unauthorized dependent. We were lucky enough to be able to adopt two Korean girls. Van was like an uncle to them. I will never forget his kindness. A few photos of our time there are attached.



Carlo Scafidi - December 10, 2021 at 01:43 PM

MJ

“ Mark, Gretchen, Meredith & Parker Johnson lit a candle in memory of Wouter Karel Vanderwal



Mark, Gretchen, Meredith & Parker Johnson - April 21, 2021 at 08:43 PM

JA

“ Van and I were good friends during our time at MtVernon and remained after. We had many talks and laughs and I loved hearing about all his adventures. I will miss him terribly. Rest now my friend.

janice - April 21, 2021 at 12:05 PM

DS

“ Julia, I was sad to hear my friend had passed away. I've know him since he entered the VIPS program in 2006, and, after he retired from the department, we continued our friendship meeting up for lunches at Kilroy's with other "oldies but goodies" friends. Don't know if Van ever told you, but his nickname was PITA1 (you know what that means). I loved his sense of humor, pride in his military service, and love of his family and friends.

He will truly be missed!

Donna Spiewak

Donna Spiewak - April 21, 2021 at 10:01 AM



“ I will miss Van at Civil War events. My thoughts are with his family.

Jim Curren - April 19, 2021 at 05:05 PM

GS

“ Van was a wonderful friend who made life so enjoyable with his humor and his ready grin. Those of us who traveled many Civil War miles with him will miss him. He lives forever in the memories of his friends.

Gail and Michael Stephens

Gail Stephens - April 19, 2021 at 04:49 PM

SK

“ *Very sad to learn of Van’s passing. Van was a tremendous individual, very kind, smart, witty, a Great sense of humor and someone you could always count on. Van volunteered and worked with me at the Mt. Vernon Station, and was there to assist anyone who needed help. All who knew him liked him because he was so personable... I will miss my conversations and exchange of emails that I had with him. His life experiences that he shared with me were an inspiration, and something that I’ll never forget... My condolences are with you Julia, your husband, Van’s grandchildren, and the rest of Van’s family... God be with him, May he Rest In Peace...*

Steve Kolodziej

Steve Kolodziej - April 18, 2021 at 12:37 PM

SD

“ *Van was such a kind and sweet man. He was always willing to help. I will miss him.*

Sharlene

Sharlene Deskins - April 18, 2021 at 11:12 AM

GK

“ *A great friend and a greater wit. Honored to have known and been friends with Van for over 40 years. Heide and I wish him fair winds and following seas. George and Heide King*

George Wilson King - April 18, 2021 at 11:02 AM

AS

“ *Worked with Van at Mount Vernon Police Station as an Auxiliary Police Officer and a V\IPS. He was a true friend and we had many great times together. The wife (Helen) and I used to run into Van at the Route 1 Giant. May he go with God and Rest in Peace.*

Alton Summers - April 18, 2021 at 08:00 AM