



Kirk Jonathan James

SEP 28, 1940 - DEC 13, 2017



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Kirk Jonathan James

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SFC Kirk Jonathan James, 77, of Frontenac, KS, died December 13, 2017, at his home following an illness. Kirk was born September 28, 1940, in Portsmouth, VA, the son of Leslie L. and Lucille L. (Zeltman) James. Kirk grew up and attended various schools throughout the United States as a US Navy “brat,” graduating from New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn, NY, in 1958. Kirk joined the Marine Corps following high school and later joined the US Army in 1965. He was a gallant hero in the Vietnam War and his actions saved many fellow soldiers in combat, receiving the Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery during Operation Attleboro. As a result of his gallantry, a street was named for him in South Vietnam. He was the only living soldier from that battle to receive the honor. His most significant medals include the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He was also selected to introduce Bob Hope during a USO show at the home of the "Big Red One" in Vietnam on Christmas day 1966. Always very modest with his accomplishments, he would find himself embarrassed when people recounted his deeds.

In May of 1970, Kirk married Florence Roxanna D’Andrea of Riverside, CT; they later divorced in April of 1980. After moving to Greenwich, CT, he earned a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Iona College in New Rochelle, NY, and served in law enforcement for the Greenwich Police Department for 14 years until 1982. After a short break in service he re-enlisted as an Army Ranger right before the age cutoff. He completed airborne school and later became a counterintelligence agent. He retired after 20 years of active military duty and 6 years of reserve duty in 1995. Following retirement he moved to Pittsburg, KS. Kirk always held membership



Obituary

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with the New Utrecht

Dutch Reformed Church of Brooklyn, NY. Kirk was also a lifetime member of the NRA, a member of the Association of Retired Police

Officers, a member of the First Infantry Division and the 28th Division, and was known to be passionate about animals with his support

of the ASPCA. He enjoyed playing softball, hunting, fishing, poker with fellow veterans, and attending Legion of Valor reunions. He

cherished his children, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Survivors include his children Leslie A. Gavin and husband Kerry of Stamford, CT, and Elizabeth K. Holcomb and husband Matthew of

Fairfield, CT; brother John James and wife Candy of Pittsburg, KS; grandchildren Quinn and Dylan Gavin and Mason and Riley Holcomb;

niece and nephew Kali Christiansen and husband Drew of Frontenac, KS, and Ben James and wife Jessica of Pittsburg, KS; great niece and

nephews Waylon, Livia, and Jackson; and his dog "Joe."

Kirk was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved dog "Cracker."

Per Kirk's wishes he will be laid to rest at the Arlington National Cemetery in

Arlington, VA, at a later date where military honors will be conducted. To view a complete list of his military achievements, visit

[https://army.togetherweserved.com/army/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?](https://army.togetherweserved.com/army/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=SBVTimeLine&type=Person&ID=2264)

[cmd=SBVTimeLine&type=Person&ID=2264](https://army.togetherweserved.com/army/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=SBVTimeLine&type=Person&ID=2264) . Donations may be made in lieu of

flowers to Peterson Outdoors Ministries Lodge of Hope, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, or the ASPCA.

Condolences may be left at www.bathnaylor.com . Arrangements and services are under the direction of Bath-Naylor Funeral Home of

Pittsburg, KS.



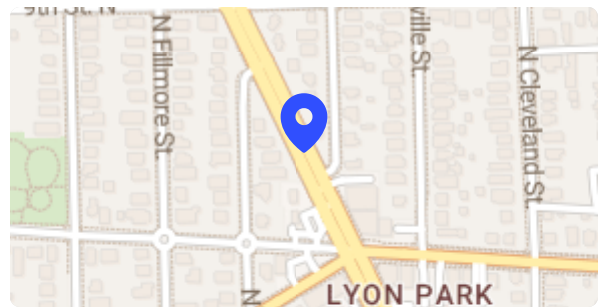
Events

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Cemetery Details

 **Arlington National Cemetery**
Arlington VA





Tribute Wall

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PH

Peg Hansen posted:

Kirk and I have been friends since the Dark Ages. Tipped many an adult beverage after softball games and family gatherings. Lost track of him after he retired from the GPD. Somehow, probably through the Silver Shield newsletter, we picked up our friendship, like 20 years had not gone by. I didn't know he had a second life, he never said a word. We have been email friends for years now. Kirk sent me every politically incorrect joke he could find, as well as "dumb blond jokes". Peter and I will miss his humor and wry comments. He was a good friend, I miss his daily emails. Peg McKinnon Hansen Grant, Florida

December 22 at 4:20 AM

RT

Richard Taracka posted:

May you rest in peace Kirk. One of the great guys who was always there when you needed help. It was a pleasure serving with you during your time on the PD. Our country always has a shortage of people of your stature.

December 20 at 1:40 PM

MW

Mark Wilson posted:

Served with Kirk from 1978 to 1982 on the Greenwich PD. Kirk was a great Officer and a better person. What a Patriot, one of the great ones. RIP Kirk Mark Wilson GPD

December 20 at 11:54 AM

MM

Mike Macdonald posted:

One of our most decorated soldiers and one hell of a guy. All Black Lions who knew you are sad. We are all honored to have had you to be one of us. Mike MacDonald President 28th Infantry Regiment Assn

December 20 at 11:37 AM



Bill Benson posted:

Rest in Peace "Crankshaft". You were a great warrior and we who fought with you on 8 November 1966 will miss you. CPT W. K. Benson, USA-Ret aka "Wild Bill".

December 20 at 9:13 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kirk by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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