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BILLY RAY LINKER

Visitation: 12:30 P.M.-2:00 P.M. Saturday September 9, 2017 Whitley's Funeral Home

Service: 2:00 P.M. Saturday September 9, 2017 Whitley's Funeral Home Chapel

Interment: 2:00 P.M. Friday September 29, 2017 Salisbury National Cemetery

Obituary:

Billy Ray Linker (US Army. Ret.), 80, of Sunset Beach, NC formerly of Kannapolis went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center following a period of declining health.

Billy was born December 7, 1936 in Cabarrus County, NC a son of the late Robert Warren Hamilton and Gertie Mae Burris Linker Hamilton.

He retired from the US Army as a Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) with 20 years of service.

He had served two tours of duty in Vietnam where he received the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Bronze Star.

Billy then was employed with Petroleum Helicopters in Lafayette, La. as a helicopter pilot with twenty one years of service. He then drove for CFI trucking company for five years and continued to be employed with Eagle Support Agency/Orion as a Department of Defense Track Vehicle Inspector until 2013.

Funeral services will be 2:00 P.M. Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Whitley's Funeral Home Chapel conducted by Rev. Mike Hubbard. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 12:30-2:00 P.M. prior to the service. Military rites will be accorded by the US Army. Interment will be at a later date at the National Cemetery in Salisbury, N.C.

Survivors left to cherish his memory include his wife of 62 years, Shelba Jean Childers Linker, two daughters; Janice Linker (Jerry D.) Gordon of Little River, S.C., and Billie Jo Linker (Bill) Simpson of Kannapolis, two sisters; Charlene "Dean" (Hank) Ashbaugh of Fernandina Beach, Fl., and Linda Dale (Reggie) Drake of Tryon, NC., nine grandchildren; Justin Gordon (Evelyn), Brett Simpson (Olivia), Kelsie Simpson, Langlie Simpson, Josie Simpson, Bryce Simpson, Tanner Simpson, Hadlie Simpson, and Tucker Simpson. and four great grandchildren; Sidney, Jerry, Bentley, and William.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 1901 Brunswick Ave #100, Charlotte, NC 28207, or the American Diabetes Association, 1300 Baxter St #150, Charlotte, NC 28204, or to Wounded Warriors' Project, Wounded Warrior Project PO Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8517.

Online condolences may be sent to www.whitleysfuneralhome.com

Condolences:

[click here to *Send a condolence*](#) ➤

From: Jim Jean

"September 1, 2017 Dear Janice, Jean and Family, I'm so sorry for your loss and the loss to us friends of Billy's, now that he has left for Heaven sooner than we were hoping. He's smiling down on us for all the wonderful memories we shared together. He is especially taking great pride, entering the Eternal Phase of his life filled with much fondness and love for you, for the love and care you have given him. He was very blessed to have you. The comfort for us people of Faith is knowing that in the time line of Eternity, our mortal lives are extremely short, even if we live to be 100. We realize that we'll be reunited in Heaven. For many of Billy's friends, that is already happening. For others of us war soldier comrades, we're not far behind him. I'm grateful that Billy was an important part of my life. He kept us young infantry soldiers alive in Vietnam. He and Jean shared with me and 13 other DTroopers, one of the most (and the most, for several of us) profound events we were ever a part of. That was a 44 year delayed Memorial for one of DTroops' Fallen in Vietnam, held in Boone, N.C., on May 31, 2013. I'll also think often about what a terrific sense of humor Billy had, and how he lived life to the fullest. He was blessed to have enjoyed 80 wonderful years, which makes me happy for him. I've been observing that Billy has been a front runner among us DTroopers in the longevity category. You and the family will always be part of the DTroop family and therefore naturally be warmly welcomed as our brothers and sisters at all get togethers. My deepest sympathies go with you. In Christian Love, Jim Jean AeroRiflePlatoon DTroop , 1/10th Cavalry Vietnam 2/69-7/69"

From: Larry and Debbie White

"Dear Janice and family, We are deeply sorry for your loss. Your dad was such a character! We will always remember his witty humor and broad smile. His love for his country and family was evident in his dedication to service, and the honors that he received while in the military few achieve. You can be proud of his accomplishment while here on this earth. He remains with you in spirit and love. Cherish the memories. Your friends, Debbie and Larry White"

From: James and Rita Phillips

"condolences.we had a lot of good times on the c. v. e. team.sorry we can not be there but know we are thinking of you all."

From: CW-4 Retired Ronald Shelton

"I was in Dtrp 1/10 Cav in the 70-71 time frame, so therefore I Didn't know Billy. What I do know is that he will personally be remembered as long as there is one living "D Trooper; we are truly a "Band of Brothers. I send my sincere condolences to you his family, and say "May God bless use all."

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