



Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr.

May 17, 1937 - March 14, 2021

Lt. Col. Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr., U.S. Army (Ret), of Oxford, MD, formerly of Alexandria, VA, passed away peacefully at his home with family by his side on March 14, 2021.

Neal was born on May 17, 1937 in Overton, TX to Melvin and Kate Grantham and grew up in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He obtained a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Science from Ohio State. Neal joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after graduating from Ole Miss.

Neal met the love of his life, Christa (Chris) Kegreiss on a blind date while stationed in Ludwigsburg, Germany. Neal and Chris were blessed to share 60 years of marriage with goodnight kisses every night, without fail! They also enjoyed travel with friends, music venues, tennis, and time with their family.

Neal treated everyone with kindness and respect and was known for his calm demeanor and dry humor. He was agreeable and often said "if you say so" or told others that everything was "copacetic". He referred to his daughters as "Schatz" or "Stinker" depending on how much he wanted to tease!

Neal patriotically served his country with tours in Vietnam, Korea, and Germany. He was awarded a Purple Heart when injured in Vietnam and

received many other distinguished awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Army Commendation. He will always be our hero.

Neal is survived by his wife, Chris; daughter, Karin (Richard) Osborne of Oxford, MD, and their children Nicole (Ryan), Christopher (Anna), Ashley, Caroline, Lily; daughter, Suzy (Mike) Schipper of Prior Lake, MN, and their children Grant, Brandon, and Ryan; sister, Elizabeth (Bradley) Sanders of Oxford, MS; brother, Bob (Sandy) Grantham of Prairieville, LA; and sister, Nita Grantham of Corona, CA. Neal was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Kate Grantham, and his brother, John Grantham.

A visitation and ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 17th from 5 to 7 PM at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home in Easton, MD. A military funeral will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Fischer House at www.fisherhouse.org.

While we are having a visitation in person, if you are unable to attend we encourage you to view the live stream. To view please click on the "Photo/Video" or "Media" tab and then click on the WebCast photo.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
200 S. Harrison Street
EASTON
EASTON, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr.*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - March 17, 2021 at 05:14 PM

JP

I'm so sorry for your loss he will be missed.

Judy Pflieger - March 17, 2021 at 07:29 PM

CS

Thank you Judy :)

Chris, Karin, Suzy - March 22, 2021 at 10:46 AM



“ *Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

RS

“ Ron Shortall lit a candle in memory of Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr.



Ron Shortall - March 24, 2021 at 09:45 AM

EL

“ *"The superior man is modest in his speech but exceeds in his actions". Neal embodies that statement and was a man of integrity, honesty and someone you felt good being around. As a teenager and today I admired and looked up to him. My family spent many nights with the Grantham's playing games, dancing, eating dinners and just getting together over many decades. Thank you Chris, Neal, Suzy and Karin for being such wonderful friends to our entire family. What an honor it was to have know Neal - I will miss him.*
Ed Lash



Edward Lash - March 17, 2021 at 08:34 PM

CS

Thank you for these kind words and the memories. Dad and our whole family has enjoyed many special times together and the Lashes hold a special place in our hearts also.

Chris, Karin, Suzy - March 22, 2021 at 10:41 AM

GF

“ So sorry I missed the first four or five minutes of the service, but the minister was correct and accurate in emphasizing that "Neal was a great man" and saying to him "Neal, you are loved by all". I'll say again, truer words were never spoken.

There is so much to say about this "great man". We were friends since the 9th grade. He was always a leader, but never considered himself one. He was modest to a fault. Neal was president of our class all four years of high school. Needless to say, he was captain of the football team and all-conference as a 150 pound lineman. I'll never forget his dad driving us to Ole Miss one Sunday afternoon to begin our college careers. We roomed together for two years. To say he was brilliant is an understatement. He excelled in engineering, his chosen major. He chose to serve our nation in the Army. I was so proud of him, but he never mentioned that Bronze Star and that Purple Heart to his old classmates. I encouraged him to put it in our 50th "class bio", but he refused do it. "Mr. Modesty" for sure!

We kept up with each other and talked two or three times a year throughout our lives. I was so happy for him when he met Chris. I recall his being so thrilled (in his way) when he told me about it. We had some fun reunions but never enough, and when we did they were never long enough. I cherished our friendship. No one has ever been more special in my life.

My wife Jackie and I send our sincerest, most heartfelt sympathy to Chris, Karin, Suzy, Bobby, Bitty, and Nita and the entire family.

George Falls - March 17, 2021 at 07:15 PM

CS

Thank you George. Dad mentioned you often and treasured your friendship. You were one of his links to his youth and he spoke of you fondly. It's so wonderful that you remained in touch even recently - it made him very happy and proud.

Chris, Karin, Suzy - March 22, 2021 at 10:41 AM

PE

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*
Love,
Peggy Gault

Peggy - March 17, 2021 at 01:46 PM

CS

Thank you Peggy. Your prayers are appreciated.

Chris, Karin, Suzy - March 22, 2021 at 10:42 AM

TA

“ *We knew Neal & Chris through my parents Peggy & Harry Gault. We had the pleasure of cruising with them to Bermuda and thoroughly enjoyed having dinner with them each evening. Neal was a man of great character and will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Please extend our love to Chris and accept our deepest sympathy.*
Love,
Tammi & Louis Violetta

Tammi - March 17, 2021 at 01:45 PM

CS

Tammi - Thank you for sharing this memory! We appreciate your condolences and I'll make sure Mom sees this.

Chris, Karin, Suzy - March 22, 2021 at 10:42 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr..*



March 17, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We always enjoyed the times spent with you-memories are special! May God bless you! Lee and Dorothy*

Lee & Dorothy Schipper - March 16, 2021 at 06:22 PM



Thank you Lee and Dorothy. Dad always enjoyed seeing you. You're right, we'll cherish our memories!

Chris, Karin, Suzy - March 22, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Melvin McNeal Grantham Jr..*



March 16, 2021 at 03:22 PM