



Robert Louis Tonsetic

December 16, 1942 - April 3, 2016

Robert L. Tonsetic, Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired), passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, April 3, 2016, in Easton, MD. He was 73 years old.

Born in Braddock, PA, Col. Tonsetic graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1964 and joined the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant. He continued to serve as an infantry officer for twenty-seven years, with multiple combat tours during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, and Bronze Star for his actions and leadership in 1968 and 1970, which included a pivotal role in the Tet Offensive.

Upon retirement in 1991, Col. Tonsetic acquired a Ph.D. in education, and served as an adjunct professor at the University of Central Florida until relocating to Easton in 2003. He authored three memoirs on his service in Vietnam as an infantry officer and advisor to a South Vietnamese Ranger battalion, as well as two historical accounts of the American Revolution. In 2014, he was inducted into the U.S. Army's Ranger Hall of Fame, at Fort Benning, GA. He was also a member of the Legion of Valor of the United States of America.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Polly Tonsetic of Easton, MD; his sons, Mark Tonsetic of Alexandria, VA, and Michael Tonsetic, of Winter Springs, FL; his daughters-in-law, Maureen McNulty and Kristin Tonsetic; and his three

grandchildren, Mitchell, Miranda, and Sophia.

Funeral services will be held later this year at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Talbot Hospice (www.talbothospice.org).

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Louis Tonsetic*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Robert Louis Tonsetic*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Robert Louis Tonsetic*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *My name is Allen D. Pollastrini (WOP) to most everyone in our unit. I was lucky enough to be his battalion RTO for at least 4 Months. In that time we had many close encounters, mainly because he always wanted to be close to his men. Not one that stayed away from the action. Alone with Top Homes we were always close in. He was an inspiration to all around him. I loved him in my own way and will always be proud to have served under him. Love and prayers to the family. I am sorry that this comes so late but i just found out about his passing. God bless my commander.*

allen d pollastrini - September 25, 2019 at 11:35 AM

GB

“ Sincere condolences go out to the Tonsetic Family, whose loss is shared by his Redcatcher Family as well. It was a privilege and honor to have met the good Captain (Col. retired), during my very first 199th LIB reunion in 2005. He was the quintessential "Officer and Gentleman" and shall be sadly missed by us all, and especially for the men under his command, with Charlie Company 4 Battalion (Warriors) 12th Infantry 199th Light Infantry Brigade. It was an absolute pleasure knowing him, even if just a little. We miss his presence and pray for him. R.I.P., Sir!



Gunther Bahlaj - April 05, 2016 at 12:55 PM