

## PASSAGES

United States Army Corp of Engineers Command Sergeant Major

CSM Micheal L. Buxbaum



Mike was born Dec. 31, 1959, to Don and Barbara Buxbaum of Manitowoc, WI. He spent his childhood and formative years in Wisconsin., where he spent time with his family, and particularly enjoyed fishing at Tomahawk with his father. He was an avid wrestler in school and loved having fun with his wrestling buddies. After graduating from Lincoln High School's Class of 1978, he entered the Army under the buddy system with his best friend, Dale Hietpas.

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In 1982, Mike married the love of his life, Roberta Reiter Buxbaum (Bobby), and they shared a long and happy marriage full of worldwide adventures and a love for Harley Davidson that was never more evident than by their regular participation in the American Legion Legacy Ride. Together, and with great joy, they raised two wonderful daughters, Katie and Christina, of whom Mike was an incredibly proud father.

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Mike served his country with distinction for 33 years. Achieving the rank of Command Sergeant Major, Mike was stationed throughout the United States and overseas during his career. He served in virtually every leadership position in the Army, from Team Leader to Brigade CSM. He deployed to hostile locations multiple times with combat tours in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in the early 1990s, Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 in 2003, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. He was also deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo in the late 1990s. He retired in June 2012, as the 10th Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Most recently he was employed by Exelis Systems Corporation, a defense services company supporting U. S. Forces. All who had the privilege to know and work with Mike knew him as a passionate advocate for the Army, his soldiers, and Corps of Engineers civilians, a legacy that will live on in the people he touched and mentored throughout his life.

Mike is also survived by his parents, Don and Barbara Buxbaum of Wisconsin; sisters and brothers-in-law Susan and Scott Esson, and JoAnn and Joe Hall, and sister Kathy Buxbaum Williams, all of Wisconsin; sister-in-law Cyndi Sanford of California and brother-in-law Ron Reiter of Indiana; many nieces and nephews; his loyal pet Breacher; and all of his Army friends and family.

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11<sup>th</sup> Regimental Command Sergeant Major



Arthur Laughlin Ret. CSM

January 17, 1951 - October 11, 2013

Arthur "Art" Dwight Laughlin was born on January 17, 1951 in San Francisco, California to Norman D. Laughlin and Edith M. Beldon-Laughlin. He graduated from Billings Senior High in Billings, Montana. Soon after, Arthur began his prestigious military career with the United States Army. He had honor in serving aboard in places such as; Germany, many Central and South American countries and Albania. Arthur reached rank of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) before his official retirement in January 2001 from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After his military retirement, he considered Texas his home. As a civilian he needed to find a new purpose outside of the military, which resulted in logistics. Sears was first step and then Dynamex would become the company that would take him in a new direction. [More](#)

## 46<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers



Lt. Gen. Elvin R. Heiberg III, who rose to the top of the United States Army Corps of Engineers in the 1980s and decades later expressed regret for failing to fight hard enough to build floodgates that he believed might have protected New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina, died on Sept. 27 in Arlington, Va. He was 81. The cause was cancer, said his daughter Kay Bransford.

In June 2007, nearly two years after Hurricane Katrina, General Heiberg wrote a letter published in The Times-Picayune of New Orleans that read: "As too many continue to rush around to find someone to blame for the Katrina engineering failures, they can blame me. I gave up too easily." He explained that in the 1970s, when he commanded the New Orleans district, the corps planned to protect the city by building gates at the east end of Lake Pontchartrain.

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## 44<sup>th</sup> Chief of Engineers



JOHN WOODLAND MORRIS II, September 10, 1921 - August 20, 2013 Lieutenant General (R) John "Jack" W. Morris II, 91, died August 20, 2013 at Davis Health Care Center. He had been a patient at the Davis Health Care Center since July of this year. Born in Princess Anne, Maryland, on September 10, 1921, to John Earl and Alice Morris, Jack graduated high school from Charlotte Hall Military Academy and then attended Western Maryland College. He entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in July 1940 as a member of the Class of 1944. Due to World War II, his class was accelerated and he graduated as a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers on June 6, 1943. While on assignment in the Philippines, he met 1st Lieutenant Geraldine Ludwig, a Flight Nurse in the Army Air Corps. Jack and Gerry were married on 12 May 1947, in St. John's Episcopal Church in Wilmington, North Carolina. Over the next three decades Jack served in critical staff and command.

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## Major General Robert J. Dacey

On 5 January 2011 the Engineer Regiment lost a distinguished member with the untimely passing of Major General Robert J. Dacey, 75, due to complications from surgery.

General Dacey was born in Watertown, NY on 15 May 1935, the son of Robert and Frances Dacey. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army in January 1959. He married Miss Rich at Fort Belvoir in May 1962. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Norwich University in 1958, a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla in 1964, and an MBA in Procurement from George Washington University in 1972; he was a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College and Army War College and numerous other professional military education programs.

His assignments included, the 553rd Engineer Battalion in Orleans, France, US Army Support Command Korea, 18th Engineer Brigade in the Republic of Vietnam, on the US Army Europe and US Army Forces Command general staffs. Corps assignments included District Engineer St. Louis District and Commander of the Corps'

Southwest Division in Dallas and culminated his Army career as the Assistant Chief of the US Army Corps of Engineers (Office of the Chief of Engineers).

His military awards included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Defense and Army Meritorious Service Medals, Air Medal, numerous Vietnam campaign and gallantry awards, and the Army Staff Identification Badge, among many others. He was a recipient of the Army Engineer Association's Silver de Fleury Medal. After his retirement in 1988, he served as the Vice President for Architecture and Design at the Marriott International, Inc. and moved to Science Applications International Corporation in 1991, retiring in 2006 as Corporate Engineer, vice president, and chairman of the Corporate Risk Committee. He was for many years a member of Rotary, served locally with the Kiwanis, and served the Avenel Homeowners Association for many years as a board member, treasurer and president, and as compliance officer of the homeowners association at Church Point in Oak Grove, VA.

He is survived by his wife, the former Rosalyn Rich of Springfield, Missouri, son MAJ (USA, Ret.) John Dacey and Mrs. Yvonne Dacey of Mount Vernon, VA with grandchildren Rachel and Max, and daughter Martha Dacey Emory and husband Mr. Jeff Emory of Arlington, VA and step-grandchildren Kristen, Lauren and Jennifer. Surviving siblings are Mrs. Eleanor Percy of Watertown, NY, Mrs Mary Malara of Siesta Key, FL and COL (USA, Ret.) Richard Dacey of Mason Neck, VA.

Visitation will be Friday 14 January at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S.

Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-549-0074. A date will be provided for funeral services and interment at Arlington National Cemetery. Notes of condolence and sympathy may be sent in care of Ms. Rosalyn R. Dacey, 9122 Town Gate Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Allen Anderson

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with deep sadness that I tell you of the death of my wife Allen Anderson on Friday morning. Her passing brought an end to her long struggle with Scleroderma. We were both optimistic that she would get better over time but her condition suddenly worsened on Thursday and she died shortly thereafter with little additional suffering.

Her funeral is scheduled for 11:00 AM, Wednesday, July 2nd at the Holy Family Episcopal Church in Jasper, GA off of Cove Road. A reception will follow the service and ashes will be interred in the Church Memorial Garden after the reception.

Thanks to all for your support, thoughts and prayers. God bless!

Phil

Nelson Conover

Our friend Nelson Conover died of an apparent heart attack on 12 October while working out in a health club in Columbia, MD. There was a memorial service held in October. He was cremated but will be buried in a grave plot at Arlington. There will be a reception after the burial at Arlington at 1 PM on 1 December in the Devers Room at Fort Myer Officers Club. Nelson's last Army job was Commander and Director of (then) Waterways Experiment Station. (He retired circa 1979 and worked for over 10 years with Walk Haydel & Associates in New Orleans.) Prior to WES he had served as Chief of Staff at Fort Leonard Wood after Brigade Command there. Prior to that he commanded the Walla Walla District. He was year group '53 which included Vald Heiberg and Max Noah among others still around, I believe.

He is survived by wife Bettie Conover, 9210 May Day Court, Columbia, MD 21045. He is also survived by two sons, Charlie and Kirk, and two granddaughters. Kirk, Rebecca and the granddaughters live right across the street from Bettie at 9214 Log Chain Rd, Columbia, MD 21045.

Hedi Mello

CSM Leroy Mello's (Honorary CSM of the Engineer Regiment) spouse passed away unexpectedly this morning 6 November, 2006.

CSM (R) Mello's info:

CSM Leroy Mello Wife's Name: Hedi

1300 Hull Valley Drive

Waynesville, MO 65583

Gerald "Jed" Curtis Brown

Army Engineer Gerald 'Jed' Curtis Brown, 63

By Yvonne Shinhoster Lamb

[Gerald "Jed" Curtis Brown, 63](#), a career Army officer and a former commander of the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers, died of complications from cancer July 28 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. He lived in Falls Church.

Carole E. Williams

I am saddened to announce the passing of Carole E. Williams, age 68, of Fort Myers, Florida the wife of LTG Arthur Williams, U.S. Army retired, former Chief of Engineers. Many of you knew Carole as a mother of three children, a registered nurse and for her outstanding support to Art during his 34 years of service to the Army and the Corps of Engineers, when he served as the 48th Chief from 1992 to 1996 and in previous USACE assignments including his command of the Sacramento District; Chief of Staff, Corps Headquarters; division commands at both Pacific Ocean Division and the Lower Mississippi Valley Division and later as the Director, Civil Works.

On behalf of Art, I also send you their special heartfelt thanks for the comfort both he and Carole shared upon receiving your many thoughts and prayers during the past months. A memorial service will be held at St. Therese Catholic Church, 20115 N. Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers at 10:00 am, August 26th, with final interment at the Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Myer, Virginia.

Major General Harold R. Parfitt It is with deep regret that we inform you of the death of Major General Harold R. Parfitt, Retired. He passed away on 21 May 2006 in Dallas, Texas. A veteran of WWII and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Major General Parfitt retired in 1979 after 36 years of distinguished service to the Nation as an Engineer officer. He was 84 years old at the time of his death. During the latter part of his career, he served as Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Center/ Commandant, United States Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia and, later, as United States Governor of the Panama Canal Zone. Major General Parfitt is survived by his wife, Mrs. Patricia R. Parfitt, of Dallas, Texas. Interment services will be held on 20 July at Arlington National Cemetery.

