



Joseph H. Kress

March 25, 1928 - January 10, 2023

Lt. Col. (Retired) Joseph H. Kress 3/25/28-1/10/23

Joseph Herbert Kress was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, the only child of the late Margaret Wingerter Kress and Joseph John Kress.

After a few years of confirmed bachelorhood and a brief career in sales, he married the girl next door, the late Charlene Weber Kress, on October 26, 1957. Joe and Charlene traveled the world during his 31 years of service in the Air Force, including assignments in Missouri, England, Texas, Hawaii, Ohio and South Carolina.

He served in both the Korean War and the Vietnam War, where he received the Bronze Star during the Tet Offensive. His awards also included the Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. His assignments included Assistant Deputy Commander for Logistics, Chief of Operations for the Defense Disposal Agency (Hawaii) for Southeast Asia, and other Chief of Supply assignments. He also commanded a Munitions Conventional and Special Weapons Squadron located at Alconbury, England. He retired in 1982 with the permanent rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He was a graduate of the Cathedral Preparatory School for Boys in Erie, PA, and received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Gannon University. He and Charlene were founding members of St. Theresa the Little Flower Catholic Church in Summerville, and he was a devout adherent of the Catholic faith. He was also a founding member of the Dorchester Taxpayer Association and served on the Dorchester County School District Improvement Committee. Locally, he was well known for his letters to the editor of the Summerville Journal-Scene.

Joe was devoted to caring for Charlene. At her passing 13 years ago, he continued to enjoy life and learn new pursuits. He joined Costco and became a first-time octogenarian chef, his specialties being wild salmon and lamb chops. He made strong drinks and entertained everyone with his life stories. He enjoyed McDonald's biscuits and gravy, which reminded him of his wartime breakfasts, as well as ice cream and beer. He spent much of these days researching history and politics, reading, and writing informed letters to local papers. Additionally, he wrote for Newswithviews.com for ten years. He also enjoyed charcoal sketching, photography and swing dancing to big band music throughout his life.

Joe is survived by his daughter, Leialana Lynne Kress of Austin, TX, and his son, Adrian Christopher Kress (Wendy) of Greenville, SC. Grandsons include his namesake, Joseph "Mason" Kress, who proudly carries the family name going back to Joe's grandfather, and Patrick Mitchell Kress, who inherited Joe's convivial personality. Joe is also survived by his best friends (and Adrian's godparents), Bruce and Mary Ann Kreider, whom they met in England at Alconbury Air Force Base in the 1960's.

Joe's personality filled a room, and our family, and he will be forever missed.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Theresa The Little Flower Catholic Church (11001 Dorchester Road, Summerville) at 11:00 am on Saturday January 14th.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St Theresa the Little Flower Catholic Church in Summerville, SC.

Cemetery Details

Dorchester Memory Gardens

11000 Dorchester Road
Summerville, SC 29485
<http://www.dorchestermemorygardens.com>

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Theresa Catholic Church
11001 Dorchester Road
Summerville, SC 29485

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Joseph H. Kress.



January 16, 2023 at 09:05 AM



“ *Mr. Kress (and Mrs. Kress) always welcomed us into their home. Whether it was for just a lunch, dinner, or for an overnight while we were cadets at the Citadel or just for a quick visit while making a trip to Charleston. My favorite story is when I stayed with them for about a week after Hurricane Hugo blew through the area in 1989. I was working for the State of SC and was asked by my boss if I would volunteer for FEMA relief efforts. The volunteer time was to last for two weeks and for the second week I was sent to work in the data processing center that was set up in Charleston. When I found out that I would be headed to Charleston I called the Kress' to see if I could come by and visit them while I was there. Just a visit wasn't good enough for them, they invited me to stay with them the entire time and basically wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I had breakfast and dinner with them every day I was there and great conversations as well. In order to repay them for the hospitality I helped Mr. Kress clean up the mess in the yard from the hurricane. To this day I still believe he was more appreciative to have someone he knew helping him in the yard than I was to have a comfortable place to stay and two meals a day. He will be missed.*

Steve Lee - January 13, 2023 at 10:38 PM

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“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. May you find comfort in many wonderful memories and know that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is providing the comfort each of you need now and will need in the coming days and weeks ahead. Numbers 6:24-26*



Intrepid Hospice Staff - January 12, 2023 at 09:53 AM