



CPT (Ret) Billy Steven Church

July 16, 1955 - April 12, 2018

CPT (Ret) Billy Steven Church, son of the late Billy Verdain and Lola Ann (Johnson) Church, was born July 16, 1955 in Flint, Michigan.

As a young boy, Steve grew up in Paragould, Arkansas and attended school. At the age of 17, he entered the United States Army and served his country faithfully until his retirement in 1996. He had attained the rank of Captain after rising through the ranks from an infantryman. For his faithful service, he earned several awards and commendations; some of which include: Army Commendation Medal 3rd Award, Army Achievement Medal 2nd Award, Army Good Conduct Medal 4th Award, National Defense Service Medal 2nd Award, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon 2nd Award, and the Aircraft Crewman Badge.

While in the military, Steve earned his GED and went on to further his education. He earned Associate of Science and Associate of Arts from Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado Springs, CO, Bachelor of Science Degree as Physician Associate with Distinction from University of Oklahoma City, OK, and Master of Science Physician Assistant Studies University of Nebraska, NE. After retiring from the military, Billy continued serving his country as a Certified PA and retired in 2017.

On January 21, 2004, Steve was united in marriage to Sandra Lee Ellis. They

shared over 14 years of marriage together and many wonderful memories.

Steve was a very active man. He loved being outdoors; whether it was running or on the lake fishing or boating. He was a collector of Fender Guitars and enjoyed playing them. He was an avid Dallas Cowboy and St. Louis Cardinal fan.

Steve loved his family tremendously and would do anything for them. He enjoyed spending time with them teaching them how to hunt, cut wood, play guitar and ski on the water and the snow.

Steve had made a profession of faith and if you were to ask him what club or organization he belonged to, he would probably say "Club Jesus". His greatest passion in life was Jesus and sharing the Gospel with others.

He went home to be with his Lord Thursday, April 12, 2018 in the Phelps County Regional Medical Center of Rolla, Missouri after a short battle with cancer. He had attained the age of 62 years, 8 months and 27 days.

Steve leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife: Sandra Lee Church of the home; six children: Jeremiah Steven Church Blackmon of Dallas, TX, Emily Lou Church (Amos) of Seattle, WA, Benjamin Steven Church (Kimberly) of Kampala, Uganda, David Holbrook Church of Denver, CO, Elizabeth Ann Trevor (John) of Charlottesville, VA, and Christian Ellis Church of Waynesville, MO; four step children: Jessica Sanchez-Lehrman (Jeff), Jocelyn Leigh Carter (Kristoffer), Jennifer Lynn Powers (Mike) and Casey Daniel Diotte all of Colorado Springs, CO; six grandchildren: Asher Griffin, Elias Steven, Eva Lynn and Ames Holbrook Church, Jordan Taylor Blackmon and Oriana Skye Uselton; seven step grandchildren: Claire Marie, Emma Grace and Gunner Gideon Sanchez-Lehrman, Corissa Leigh and Daniel Kenneth Carter and Benjamin Grant and Brianna Amelia Powers; one sister: Tina Gale Keller

(Carl) of Berne, IN; other relatives and friends.

Graveside services with military honors were held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, 2018 in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery of Waynesville, Missouri with Rev. Benjamin Church, Steve's son, officiating. Military honors were provided by the United States Army of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Steve Church and may be left at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert
202 Historic 66 W.
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6111
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

Graveside Service

APR 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood
25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of CPT (Ret) Billy Steven Church*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - April 26, 2018 at 03:33 PM

MB

Mr. Church was a great guy. Hope family is able to heal after his loss.

Mary B - April 30, 2018 at 12:45 AM



“ *CPT (Ret) Billy Steven Church*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM

TO

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you always.*



Toye O'Brien - April 23, 2018 at 09:53 PM



“ My sister Sandy Maxey was Steve’s first wife he would come and visit and play his guitar I remember that he would play house of the rising sun and knocking on heavens door. He and his oldest son Jeremiah played together at jays wedding. It warmed my heart to see them playing knocking on heavens door together. R I p Steve

nancy jones cook - April 17, 2018 at 05:26 PM



“ 75 files added to the album Life Tributes



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - April 17, 2018 at 02:01 PM



“ Keyanne Quick lit a candle in memory of CPT (Ret) Billy Steven Church



Keyanne Quick - April 17, 2018 at 11:28 AM

Liz
Ross

“ Liz Ross lit a candle in memory of CPT (Ret)
Billy Steven Church



Liz Ross - April 16, 2018 at 11:55 AM

PE

“ Steve a man of many talents and perhaps a different mood to go with each. Those who knew him, knows he is a Godly person filled with compassion and readily to share. As much as it pains me to say, I miss him already and is difficult to comprehend why this happened to my friend especially with his medical background. Before I left and not to long before his last breath, Steve surprisingly stood up and whispered in my ears "I love you man and I am sorry". I am without a doubt confused as to why he was sorry or what he was sorry for, but as I held him and we embraced he said he was good. I do believe he accepted his invitation and felt good about going home. Although, Steve leaves behind many family members/friends he will always be remembered. He will now be forever watching over us, until we meet again.

Pete - April 16, 2018 at 09:55 AM

SL

“ Sheryl Diotte Longley lit a candle in memory
of CPT (Ret) Billy Steven Church



Sheryl Diotte Longley - April 15, 2018 at 08:13 PM

SA

*Thank you Sheryl...I pray for comfort for your family. Always love,
Sandi*

Sandi - April 17, 2018 at 08:49 PM

PG

“ Pulaski County Camp Gideons lit a candle in
memory of CPT (Ret) Billy Steven Church



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - April 15, 2018 at 07:23 PM

TK

“ To my only brother, now in heaven, forever in
my heart and childhood memories. I almost
see you laughing on glory's side.



Tina Gale Keller - April 15, 2018 at 02:55 PM

SA

*He will be terribly missed, I'm sure he is enjoying the reunion...thank
you for sharing him with us! ~Sandi*

Sandi - April 17, 2018 at 08:52 PM

EB

“ Ed Bott lit a candle in memory of CPT (Ret)
Billy Steven Church



Ed Bott - April 15, 2018 at 02:40 PM