



CSM (Ret.) Ioakimo "Niko" Falaniko

August 6, 1954 - October 20, 2021

Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Ioakimo Falaniko hails from the island of Samoa and entered the Army on 29 December 1976 and retired in December 2008. He received One Station Unit Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri as a combat engineer. His stateside assignments include: Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Three tours at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Fort Lewis, Washington. His overseas tours include: Hanau, West Berlin, Giessen, Germany; Camp Indian and Camp Howze, Korea and recently serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq from 2003 to 2004.

CSM Falaniko served in all key leadership positions in the field of combat engineers starting from Team Leader up to Command Sergeant Major. He was Command Sergeant Major for the 14th Engineer Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington; a former Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Armored Division, Engineer Brigade at Giessen, Germany; and a former Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Engineer Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was the Senior Instructor for the Sapper Leader Course. Since retiring from military service, he was the Training Supervisor for the IED Division of Counter Explosive Hazards Center on Fort Leonard Wood and also worked as a consultant.

His military education includes: Bridgeman Primary Technical Course; Primary

Leadership Course; Primary Noncommissioned Officer Course; Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course; Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course; Drill Sergeant School; Master Fitness Trainer Course; Sapper Leader Course; Instructor Training Course; Instructor Supervisor Course; Airborne School; Ranger School; Air Assault School; Jumpmaster School; French Commando Course; and First Sergeant Course.

CSM Falaniko is a graduate of Class-49 of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. Additionally, he holds an Associate Degree in General Studies from Central Texas College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a Minor in Human Resource Management from Columbia College.

His awards and decorations include: The Legion of Merit, (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster) Bronze Star Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster); Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Commendation Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Cluster); Army Achievement Medal (with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters); Good Conduct Medal (10th Award); Army Occupation Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Korea Defense Service Medal; Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon (4); Overseas Service Ribbon (4); Army Service Ribbon; Ranger Tab; Sapper Tab; Master Parachutist Badge; Air Assault Badge; Drill Sergeant Badge; French Commando Badge; Canadian Parachutist Badge; and German Bronze Marksmanship Badge. He also was awarded the DeFleury Bronze and Silver Medal of the Army Corps of Engineer.

CSM Falaniko is the winner of the military Meritorious Service Award presented by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council for his significant contributions to the advancement of Asian Pacific Americans and the promotion of equal employment opportunity in the Federal work force and APA

community. CSM Falaniko and his family are members of Gold Star Families.

CSM Falaniko was a co-founder and a board member of the Sapper Association and also served in the position as Treasurer.

CSM Falaniko is survived by his wife Maliana Afano Falaniko of St. Robert, MO, his son Niko Falaniko of Lakewood, Washington, his daughter Adeline Fuata and her husband Walter Fuata of Waynesville, MO, and his daughter Otilia Falaniko of St. Robert, MO. He is preceded in death by his son Jonathan Falaniko, killed in action of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003; Niko and Maliana have six grandsons, Niko Jr., Jonathan, Mario, Julian, Randy, and Leikoi and one granddaughter, Ariana.

CSM Falaniko passed away Wednesday, October 20, 2021 in his home in St. Robert, MO having attained the age of 67 years.

Funeral Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021, in Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/ St. Robert.

Visitation will be Saturday, from 1 p.m. until service time at 2 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorial contributions in memory of Ioakimo Falaniko may be made and may be left at the funeral home.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **30**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

OCT **30**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of CSM (Ret.) Ioakimo "Niko" Falaniko*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - November 07, 2021 at 10:12 AM

CH

“ I sent this message to CSM, not knowing he had passed. Thought anyone here would appreciate it:

CSM Falaniko, this is MSG Holmes. You probably don't remember me, but I was a newly promoted SGT in Iraq on 9/28/2003, where I attended an NCO Induction Ceremony you conducted while we were deployed.

I am reaching out to you because you need to know the impact you have had on my many careers. I retired from the Army in 2021, working as a Course Manager for the Military Police Corps, running their Senior Leaders Courses. Currently working as a School Resource Officer Sergeant in Parker, CO and Tactical Commander for the Douglas County Regional SWAT Team.

Every time I get a new cop, SRO, or SWAT Operator, I tell your story and Jonathan's story. I tell them about the leadership you embodied and exhibited constantly. I tell them that every day, I do my best to emulate this leadership. Thank you.

Cleveland Holmes



Cleveland Holmes - April 30 at 09:45 AM

JW

“ *Jeff Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Ioakimo Falaniko*



Jeff Wilkerson - March 03, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ CSM (Ret.) Ioakimo "Niko" Falaniko

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM

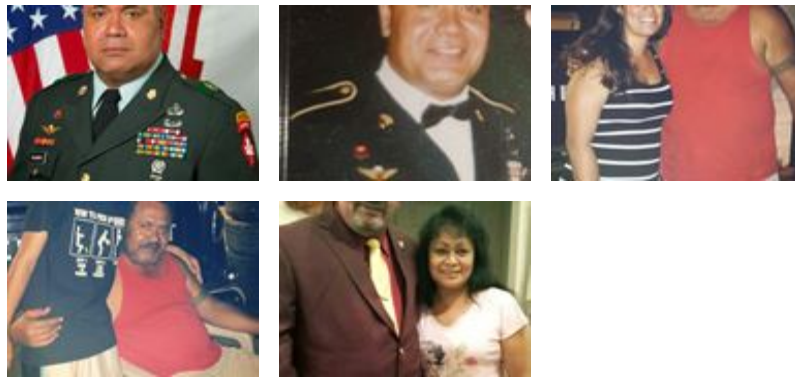


“ I am saddened to hear about the passing of CSM Falaniko. He was one of a few unsung hero from harden and battle tested Toa o Samoa warriors. Condolences to the family and friends 🙏 Fly with Angels CSM, you have set the standard for us all to follow 🙏💙❤️ Rest in Peace Warrior, manuia lau malaga 🙏🤝

Sua Mene Peni - November 02, 2021 at 10:01 PM



“ 66 files added to the album Life Tributes



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - October 29, 2021 at 10:57 AM



Rest In Peace CSM I'm sure you'll do just fine with your new leadership. Many memories will always be with me. Sappers First.

Kevin Gallagher - November 19, 2021 at 07:49 PM



Was my drill sgt and created 14 engeers

David Kellar - December 31, 2022 at 07:49 PM

TI

“ *Tipeni lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret.)
Ioakimo "Niko" Falaniko*



Tipeni - October 28, 2021 at 10:47 PM

RK

“ *Maliana and Family,
Our heart goes out to you and your family,
words fail to express our deep sorrow for your
loss. May the Lord provide you comfort and
strength during this difficult time. Niko was a
great leader, great mentor and a great friend!*



CSM (Ret.) Ron Keown and Erna Maria.

Ronald Keown - October 28, 2021 at 07:45 PM

CD

“ It was my distinct honor to have Niko serve as an instructor in my command at the Sapper Training Detachment. Niko came to us and immediately was put through the revamped sapper leader course and then given the opportunity to attend airborne training and the Army ranger course and excelled in all three. Niko was an excellent instructor and proved to be a soldiers soldier. I can't express the sorrow that I feel for his loss. My sincere condolences to the family for the loss of the family patriarch. Rest in peace my brother, I love you.

SLTW/RLTW

Cpt. (R) Don Davis and Linda Davis



CPT. (R) Don Davis - October 28, 2021 at 05:35 PM



“ Mary Haas lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret.) loakimo "Niko" Falaniko



Mary Haas - October 28, 2021 at 01:13 PM

CG

“ CSM (RET) Jesus E. Gomez lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret.) loakimo "Niko" Falaniko



CSM (RET) Jesus E. Gomez - October 28, 2021 at 12:44 PM

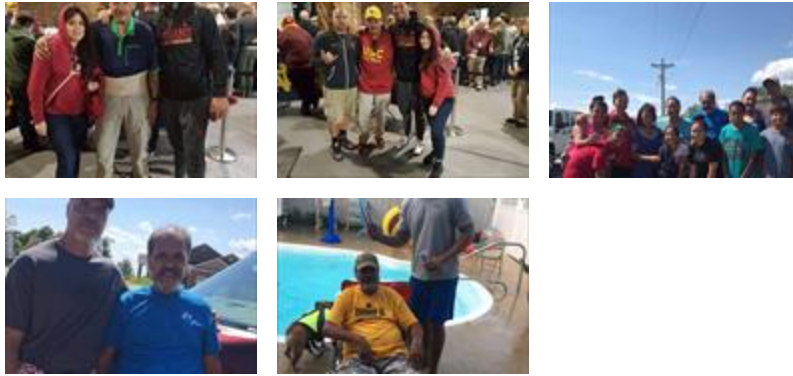
CS

“ My sincere condolences to the family of CSM(R) Falaniko it was an honor serving with him when I was a 1SG and he was my Engineer Brigade CSM in Germany. May God give you all peace and strength in the days to come. Rest Easy Sapper Rest Easy CSM(R) Gerald L Williams, Sr and Defriece D Williams

CSM(R) Gerald L Williams, Sr - October 28, 2021 at 09:14 AM

FI

“ 6 files added to the album Life Tributes



Faasili Iuli - October 26, 2021 at 06:08 PM



“ Lisa Hafner lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret.) Ioakimo "Niko" Falaniko



Lisa Hafner - October 26, 2021 at 03:57 PM



“ 66 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - October 26, 2021 at 12:39 PM

BF

“ *I was deployed with CSM Falaniko in Iraq in 2003. He came to our battalion to teach an NCO DP class. He asked me if I had a laser pointer. I told him the only one I had was the laser sight on my 9mm. He taught the class using that laser, still attached to the pistol. It was hilarious.*

I was there for the memorial of Jonathan...words cannot express my admiration for this man.

Bill French - October 25, 2021 at 06:35 PM

BP

“ *Dear Airborne , I will miss you punching me in the chest with each promotion I receive. This is one Paratrooper that has nothing but respect for you. My God bless you and your family. Airborne All The Way! SGT BEN PEARSON*

Ben Pearson - October 25, 2021 at 08:36 AM

JS

“ Jeff And Senia Scroggins sent a virtual gift in memory of CSM (Ret.) loakimo "Niko" Falaniko



Jeff and Senia Scroggins - October 24, 2021 at 07:40 PM

JS

“ Jeff And Senia Scroggins lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret.) loakimo "Niko" Falaniko



Jeff and Senia Scroggins - October 24, 2021 at 07:39 PM

CB

“ CSM(Ret)Harold&Brigitte Burleson lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret.) loakimo "Niko" Falaniko



CSM(Ret)Harold&Brigitte Burleson - October 23, 2021 at 01:00 PM

PG

“ Pulaski County Camp Gideons lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret.) loakimo "Niko" Falaniko



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - October 23, 2021 at 12:59 PM

TH

“ *Tod & Marion Hunter lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret.) Ioakimo "Niko" Falaniko*



Tod & Marion Hunter - October 23, 2021 at 05:48 AM

MJ

“ *Niko as so many knew him was such a great leader, mentor and dear friend. I met him for the first time at Sapper School, then when I was a Drill Sergeant, as a Civilian in 1st Bde when he was Bde CSM and I was his Bde Safety and Schools rep.*

He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree. I was honored as the Faithful Navigator to have him become a Worthy Sir. He was phenomenal in all aspects of life.

You will be dearly missed my friend.

Until we meet again Sapper!!

Sappers Lead the Way Always!!

Your watch has ended, rest in peace.

You and your family are in our prayers always!!

Mike and Pat Johnson - October 22, 2021 at 09:04 PM