



CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline

April 13, 1954 - November 1, 2014

CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline entered the Army on November 27, 1982. He completed 12C Bridge Crewmember One Station Unit Training, at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO in February 1983. His first duty assignment was Ft Lewis, WA with the 15th Engineer Battalion as a Bridge Crewmen. Mr. Cline's Active Army career spans 22 years of honorable service. He held every leadership position from Team Leader to Command Sergeant Major, including a highly coveted position as the Aide to Sergeant Major of the Army Richard A. Kidd.

Mr. Cline's other assignments include ACO 3/61st INF BN Ft Jackson, SC, as a Drill Sergeant; CCO 12th ENGR BN, Germany, as a Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant; ACO 299th ENGR BN, Ft Carson, CO, as a Platoon Sergeant and Operations Sergeant; CCO and HHC 9th ENGR BN, as Company First Sergeant; his Active Duty career culminated as the Command Sergeant Major of the 5th ENGR BN, Ft Leonard Wood, MO.

Mr. Cline's continued his service to the Army in his retirement as the Chief of Staff of the Counter Explosive Hazards Center, where he selflessly served for more than nine years. During his tenure at the CEHC, Mr. Cline assisted in the development of multiple courses designed to combat the IED threat. As the Chief of Material, he led the effort on finding and testing Counter IED equipment. He then took over as the Chief of Staff where he advised leaders at all levels on Counter IED training and equipment.

Mr. Cline's numerous awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit (1OLC); the Soldiers Medal; the Bronze Star Medal (V); the Bronze Star Medal (1OLC); the Meritorious Service Medal (3OLC); the Army Commendation Medal (4OLC); and the Army Achievement Medal (5OLC); he is a graduate of all levels of NCOES including the Drill Sergeant School and Class# 53 of the Sergeants Major Academy.

Mr. Cline left a lasting legacy during his 32 years of service to our nation and the Engineer Corps. Countless Soldiers have him to thank for his outstanding leadership during his time as an Engineer NCO, and the programs he helped create to fight Improvised Explosive Devices. His loss will be felt throughout the entire Engineer Regiment and a void in the hearts of all that knew and loved him.

Mr. Cline is survived by his wife of 38 years Mrs. Cynthia L. Cline and his two daughters: Cassondra Cline of Waynesville, MO and Samantha Cronkrite and husband Shawn of Denver, CO; one greatly anticipated grandson; a sister: Pat Moss of the state of Ohio; brother-in-law: Brad Weber and wife Hilde of Bowerston, OH; brother-in-law: Thomas Moore of the state of Ohio; nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents Wilbur and Ethel Cline and his beloved in-laws Charles and Sara Weber.

Memorial services with military honors were held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, November 6, 2014 in the Soldier Memorial Chapel of Fort Leonard Wood with Chaplain (MAJ) Kenneth Sharpe officiating. Chaplain (CPT) Stacy Beasley prayed the invocation, and LTC Scott Preston and COL Darryl McDowell recalled their memories of CSM Cline. COL Paul Kelly read Scripture and the song "Amazing Grace" was played. Military honors were provided by the 1st

Engineer Brigade Honor Guard. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Soldier Memorial Chapel
Fort Leonard Wood, MO

Service

NOV 6. 1:30 PM (CT)

Soldier Memorial Chapel
Fort Leonard Wood, MO

Tribute Wall



“ CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ I remember Michael Cline as a First Sergeant. I was a Specialist in that company in Assault and Obstacle Platoon. I was the senior ranking Specialist. So basically, I was in charge of the squad of 7 Armored Combat Earth-movers and their operators who were also Specialists. It wasn't a big deal to me. I did what we were supposed to do. We all kept the ACEs up and running all of time. It was difficult at times but we managed.

One day he called me into his office and said that he would be pinning Corporal rank on me that day. We did it right in his office. He then asked me to identify which squad I wanted to move to and become the squad leader. I had the perfect chance to escape A&O platoon and go to an easier line squad but I chose to stay with the crew I had. Little did I know what immediate impact that would have on me. His next statement was. "Good. You'll be going to the Audie Murphy Board in three weeks with a section of 4 of your Soldiers" I was shocked to say the least. It was a performance board where I sat there and sweat it out while the Soldiers performed the tasks given to them without knowing which ones they would be before hand. He was a fast tracker for sure and I think he was putting me on that track.

He drew some pretty interesting special speakers to our unit. We had SMA(R) Kidd come to the company once and SMA McKinney, the first one. The take away from all of this is that Michael Cline took care of the mission and the men and he did it really well. I will always remember him.

Guy Gould - March 22, 2018 at 09:52 PM

EM

“ I was thinking about CSM (ret.) Michael Cline to reach out and discovered he passed away at FLW hospital 3 years ago at the age of 60. This man instilled the belief in me that I would bring us back home together and made me the great soldier that I was.

CSM Cline trusted me with his life and made me his SAW Gunner. There were many conversations I had with him in Iraq where he just talked to me about courage and how some men lacked it. I never knew what he was getting and thought these were the worse pep talks ever. I finally realized CSM Cline was trying to make me realize you have to understand when you are special and do more than what is required of you.

At first I thought CSM Cline was chasing medals to get promoted to CSM of the Army. It wasn't till 5 months in our deployment in Iraq I realized he was doing what most men lacked the courage to do and that was risk his life so others could return home.

Because CSM Cline believed in me, I believed I owed him to perform my best in Iraq. He recommended for the Bronze Star Medal in October of 2003, which opened doors for me in my career after the Army.

While I always thought I was Superman as a kid, CSM Cline made me believe I was during the hardest year of my life. I believe I was one of the few people to actually see him smile over there lol. You will be missed.

You will always be my hero.

Edwin Medina - June 14, 2017 at 07:11 PM

MF

“ I was 21 in 1989 and Drill Sergeant Cline was my drill sergeant. I only knew him as that, and I am proud to read about his life and impact after that time. We were blessed to have such a man as our drill sergeant - my memories are that he was tough, fair, and - I recognized - had a good heart. He definitely motivated soldiers - you did not want to get him riled. I too remember the grin, his brief stories sharing advice. I remember mail call was a hoot where he would throw mail at the privates, creating a rambling happy scene at the end of a long day. He shaped us up and provided structure - powerful role model for us. I am proud of him and extend my sincere sorrow to his family. Thank you for lending him to us if only for a time.

Matt Floyd - December 03, 2015 at 09:16 AM

GR

“ This just reached me and I cannot even express how much this saddens me! As a previous soldier of his (C/9E), who many were ready to give up, I can only speak of his love of, and interest in, his soldiers! Mike would go that extra mile and accepted all challenges. I stand here as a senior NCO today because Mike accepted a challenge, and his steadfast steely-eyed Sapper mentality has become a hallmark of my leadership style. It's been over 7 years since last sipping a beer with him at his house, but his voice rings as clear today as it did then when he told me, "Never let your soldiers doubt your ability, and never let your superiors question your character". There's was never questioning Mike's character and we all fully know of his ability. God bless the Clines

You've taken the high ground, now provide us over-watch. For we've picked up your ruck and will continue the mission...

SLTW! Dawgs of War!

Forever Appreciative,
~ Griz

Griz - May 14, 2015 at 09:36 AM

FB

“ Frederick Butts lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline



frederick butts - May 10, 2015 at 07:08 PM

FB

“ I just heard about this...being a former C co 9th member...csm cline at the time was a first sgt... I remember him as a very kind and caring nco...I also spent christmas with him and his wife which was very unique as it showed me he was a person and i was honored to have known him. Even downrange when the issues came apparent he never gave up hope on me. The world lost a good man with him. Thankyou csm cline.

frederick butts - May 10, 2015 at 07:06 PM

DK

“ Mike Cline was an amazing man. He touched the lives of countless numbers of people, and he made each of them better off for it (although some privates and junior NCOs may not have felt that way about it at the time!).

I was lucky to serve with Mike, and blessed to have him as my 1SG in C Company, 9th Engineer Battalion. I was 29, he was 45. I thought I was in charge. He patiently developed me as he developed everyone else. I'm 45 now and I shake my head at what he must have thought as he went through a series of young officers, grooming each and making the Army he loved a better place person by person.

Mike is gone too soon. But what he did during his life is remarkable. Mike was one of the bedrock NCOs that kept the U.S. Army and it's NCO Corps alive through hard times of draw-downs, budget cuts, and micro-managing senior officers. Mike was one of the few NCOs I ever met in my career that knew what NCOs did and kicked officers out of the NCO lane. He was the best I knew at doing it. He trained officers on what NCOs did, he trained NCOs to know their job and train their soldiers, and he made officers go train their junior officers. He was a professional and he was great at his calling. He was strong and hard from the streets of Cleveland and he was willing to make the hard right choices and make others make them too.

As a Platoon Sergeant in Desert Storm, as the Aide to the Sergeant Major of the Army after Desert Storm, as 1SG and CSM in numerous commands, Mike kept our nation and it's soldiers safer and focused on what was important. I would have been a much worse soldier without his mentoring. Thank you, Mike.

Cindy, I am sorry for you and your girl's loss. Thank you for all the hard times and deployment separations that you endured and supported him through. You were his bedrock. His pride in his girls and his love for you was evident. Thinking of Mike makes me smile

and I'm glad for my time with him.

- Dave Klingman

Dave Klingman - November 19, 2014 at 11:05 AM



“ *I served with CSM (Ret) Cline in the 9th Engineer Battalion when he was the C Company 1SG and I was the B Company Commander. He was a great leader who truly cared for all Soldiers. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. LTC Hicks and family*



Lee Hicks - November 09, 2014 at 03:02 AM



“ *Billy Tate lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline*



Billy Tate - November 08, 2014 at 11:50 AM

GD

“ *I'm humbled to know Mike and I were good friends. Our friendship will be cherished by me forever. The numerous laughs we shared as we let loose will be sorely missed.*

Greg

Gregory Dent - November 07, 2014 at 11:52 AM

MS

“ *IN MEMORY AND HONOR OF HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY. PRAYERS GO OUT TO HIS FAMILY AND LOVED ONES.*
MARLIN STEVENS



MARLIN STEVENS - November 07, 2014 at 07:29 AM

RM

“ *The CSM's family will be in my prayers.*



Robert Watts Mansfield - November 07, 2014 at 12:38 AM

PC

“ *Pamela Cox lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline*



Pamela Cox - November 06, 2014 at 06:45 PM

AM

“ *Prayers for peace and comfort to you and your family, Cindy. Praying Mike rests in peace.*

Amy Migliara - November 06, 2014 at 12:41 PM



“ *Cindy, I am so very sorry about your loss. You all were wonderful friends and our prayers and thoughts are with you, Sammy, and Casey.*



Ann Whitespeare - November 06, 2014 at 12:23 PM



“ *Christina Rasch lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline*



Christina Rasch - November 06, 2014 at 09:47 AM



“ *Jim And Ute Harshbarger lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline*



Jim and Ute Harshbarger - November 06, 2014 at 08:51 AM



“ *Sending healing prayers to the Cline family. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Shelly

Shelly Van Camp - November 06, 2014 at 08:05 AM

DR

“ Donald & Patricia Reno sent a virtual gift in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline



Donald & Patricia Reno - November 05, 2014 at 04:43 PM

BS

“ Brad Schneier lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline



Brad Schneier - November 05, 2014 at 04:23 PM

DW

“ I pray for the family. To CSM Cline. I say Hard training easy war. RIP. Sapper.

Dana watson. - November 05, 2014 at 01:36 PM

RB

“ Words cannot express my sorrow at your loss. My thoughts of Mike have always brought a smile to my face and I hope you are able to look past the grief one day and remember better times. I can recall an early morning in Schweinfurt with the 9th when he was in a particularly grumpy mood and everyone was avoiding him until the coffee kicked in. I walked into his office and threw a 1st aid cold pack at him asking him to put it on whatever was bugging him and get over it. His response was to come out of his office and throw a stapler at me, much harder than the cold pack, and then break out into that contagious grin of his.

I was with another unit and heard that he was close by so I made it a point to go to his headquarters at Camp Taji, Iraq in 2003. I recall walking in and announcing very loudly "They will promote anyone to Sergeant Major these days, did you find that rank in a Cracker Jack box?" This was followed by complete and utter silence. Mike then put me in a head lock and drug me outside to share a cup of coffee and just talk.

I can only imagine your grief but cannot think of him without smiling and always will. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Raymond F. Brown - November 05, 2014 at 01:24 PM

MH

“ Cindy, I know the loss is immeasurable. Mike was larger than life and it is hard for me to believe that he is not here anymore. Please take care of yourself and lean on your daughters. It is a long hard road, but you are strong.

Midge



Midge Hughes - November 05, 2014 at 11:29 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline.*



November 05, 2014 at 11:14 AM



“ *Pat Moss lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline*



Pat Moss - November 05, 2014 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mike may have been my "kid brother" - but he grew into a man that I loved and respected more than he ever knew. He has touched so many lives in a positive way and I am so very proud of him. Cindy, Casey, Sam - I love you all and am thinking about you every single day.*

Pat Moss - November 05, 2014 at 10:08 AM



“ *Jacqueline Wilson lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline*



jacqueline wilson - November 05, 2014 at 04:56 AM

JW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Cline family while they grieve for their love one that was taken from them suddenly. Sorry for your loss CSM Cline was a great man to all that came in contact with him.

Woody and Jacquie Wilson

jacqueline wilson - November 05, 2014 at 04:55 AM

SW

“ Cindy, Sam and Casey, I am so sorry for your loss. Mike was so loved and respected by so many. Your an amazing family, I love you Cindy and I'm here for you, anything you need please call me.



Shirley Wood - November 04, 2014 at 08:21 PM

BB

“ Cindy & family, words cannot express the sadness I feel for your loss. My deepest sympathy for your entire family. Brenda Bates

brenda bates - November 04, 2014 at 07:49 PM

ER

“ Ed Reardon lit a candle in memory of CSM (Ret) Michael Everett Cline



Ed Reardon - November 04, 2014 at 07:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Michael Prochilo - November 04, 2014 at 07:08 PM



“ *Mike was a great guy who will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. May he rest in peace. To the family, I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. May you all be blessed with great memories that help keep Mike's memory alive.*



Dennis Hutchinson - November 04, 2014 at 05:25 PM



“ *Cindy and Family,
I am sooooo sorry to hear about Mike. Please know we are sending our deepest Condolences. Lots of Prayers We love you!
Elaina, Justin and Yvonne*

yvonne watkins - November 04, 2014 at 05:03 PM



“ *Cindy, was so sorry to hear about Mike. Will continue to keep you and your family in my prayers.
Lorie Cerda*

Lorie Cerda - November 04, 2014 at 02:26 PM

AC

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Allen and Debbie
Crawley*

Allen and Debbie Crawley - November 04, 2014 at 11:13 AM

TB

“ *Hugs and continued prayers for Cindy and the girls. Mike was a
wonderful man and will be greatly missed.*

Tammie and Brian - November 04, 2014 at 08:52 AM