



## CW4 (Ret) Phillip Omar Kerns

October 20, 1940 - May 7, 2015

Phillip Omar Kerns, son of the late Glenn Ward and Clarice Gail (Miller) Kerns, was born October 20, 1940 in Bellefontaine, Ohio where he grew up and graduated from Bellefontaine High School. Phillip continued his education and graduated from Baylor University.

On August 17, 1960, Phillip entered the United States Army and served his country faithfully for 30 years. During his time in the Army, he graduated from the first Physician Assistant Training, attained the rank of CW4, and earned several awards and commendations; some of which include: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal-3, Army Commendation Medal-3, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal-4, National Defense Service Medal-2, Vietnam Service Medal-2, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon-5, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation w/Palm, Expert Field Medical Badge, and Expert Qualification Badge M-16 Rifle.

On October 30, 1991, Phillip was united in marriage to Mu Chen Hsu. They shared over 23 years of marriage together and many wonderful memories.

After retiring from the military, Phillip was able to spend more time doing the things he enjoyed. He loved to spend time outdoors while fishing, gardening

or treasure hunting with his metal detector. He also liked to research genealogy of his family line and he would spend hours doing the research.

Phillip passed away Thursday, May 7, 2015 in his home having attained the age of 74 years. He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved him.

Phillip leaves to cherish his memory, his wife: Mu-Chen Kerns of the home; four children: Karen Kelly of Newport Beach, CA, George Kelly and wife Kiersten of Overland Park, KS, Lee Ann Evaro and husband Vic of the state of Virginia and Cameron Kerns and wife Jennifer of the state of Texas; seven grandchildren; two brothers, two sisters, and one brother-in-law all of the state of Ohio; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, 2015 in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery of Waynesville with military honors being 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 Phillip Kerns 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

MAY 11. 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](mailto:memorialchapels@embarqmail.com)

## Graveside Service

MAY 12. 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 CW4 (Ret) Phillip Omar Kerns*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - May 11, 2015 at 06:48 PM



“ *CW4 (Ret) Phillip Omar Kerns*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *I was having a conversation with a colleague today about mentors and Chief Kerns came to mind. I googled his name and my heart sunk when I found his obituary. I was a young Army medic when I worked with him at a TMC at Ft. Leonard Wood. I learned a lot from him and he inspired me to become a PA, but I ended up going to med school instead. He always took time to teach and I try to emulate that in my practice.*

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*Robert Fines, MD*

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**Robert Fines** - October 11, 2021 at 06:07 PM

MT

“ *Mu Chen I did not know of Phil's passing until today. I am so sorry. We lost touch after my husband Neil died. I got away from genealogy totally after Neil's death until a few years ago. I sent Phil a few emails over the years but he never responded. I thought perhaps his email address had changed. I remember fondly the day you both came to the house to visit when you came back to Ohio for a few days. I still have the friendship quilt hanging in my bedroom that you made me. I will remember Phil and you always with fond memories. I surely hope you read this because I do not know how to reach you otherwise.*

Michelle Teeple-Smith - July 18, 2016 at 04:39 PM

LH

“ *Larry & Freda Hunnicutt lit a candle in memory of CW4 (Ret) Phillip Omar Kerns*



Larry & Freda Hunnicutt - May 12, 2015 at 09:04 PM

LH

*RIP "Dr. Phil".*

Larry and Freda Hunnicutt - May 12, 2015 at 09:08 PM

MF

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Maria and her family - thank you for sharing memories and photos here*

*Mary Ryan-Fisher*

Mary Fisher - May 12, 2015 at 03:57 PM

MS

“ *Mary Spampanato lit a candle in memory of CW4 (Ret) Phillip Omar Kerns*



Mary Spampanato - May 12, 2015 at 01:54 PM

MS

*The Tuesday morning coffee league will miss Phillip's presence at the bowling alley!*

Mary Spampanato - May 12, 2015 at 01:57 PM



“ *45 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - May 11, 2015 at 02:03 PM

MS

“ *IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY  
MARLIN STEVENS*



MARLIN STEVENS - May 11, 2015 at 07:45 AM

S(

“ I did not know Phil personally, but I have great admiration for him. As he was a member of Army PA Class #1, he paved the way for me, Army PA Class #7. I extend my condolences to the family and want you to know that his and your sacrifices for the Army PA is appreciated. May the Lord grant you peace and comfort during this time.

Respectfully,  
Stephen W.Ward, PA-C (Ret), Major (Ret)  
Society of Army Physician Assistants-Chaplain

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Stephen Ward, PA-C (Ret) USA Maj (Ret) - May 09, 2015 at 09:26 PM

PL

“ Phil was a dedicated Army Soldier who helped lead a new profession into existence. He was in the Army Physician Assistants “Class #1” which helped lead the way for not only Military PA’s but civilian PA’s alike. I had a chance to work with Phil at Fort Leonard Wood treating Soldiers and their dependents. He was thorough, meticulous and his patients loved him. Phil was a leader, a Soldier but most of all, a dedicated health care professional for the United States Army. On behalf of the Society of Army Physician Assistants (SAPA); I salute Phil for his dedicated service.



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Paul W. Lowe - May 09, 2015 at 02:48 PM