



James Ralph Stordahl

December 11, 1949 - October 5, 2022

Colonel James R. Stordahl, 72, father and loving husband of the late Melody Nedrud Stordahl, passed away peacefully at home on October 5th, 2022, surrounded by his children.

Born in Spearfish, South Dakota, Jim was the son of the late Ralph and Bulah Stordahl. Raised in Rapid City, SD, he began his impressive ascent into the ranks of the US Army with posts across the world from Panama to Hawaii, Virginia to Germany. His highly decorated 26-year career included Commander of the 181st Transportation Battalion. He culminated his career as Colonel and Director of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. He was the recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal.

In addition to his commendable service to our country, Jim was an avid gardener, world traveler, outdoorsman, mentor, and philanthropist, serving on the boards of many foundations, but he will perhaps be remembered most fondly for his big heart and larger-than-life stories.

He is survived by his two daughters: Lisa Bartro (Chris) and Lesley Stordahl (Mike Smith); his son, Geoffrey Stordahl (Mary Ann); seven loving grandchildren; his brother: Jim Buck; his two sisters: Connie Nieland and Renee Buck; two nephews; three nieces; three grand nieces and two grand nephews. In addition, he is survived by friends, colleagues, and neighbors by

whom he was so graciously cherished as a member of their own family as well.

In addition to his wife and parents, he is preceded in death by his brother: David Stordahl; his birth parents: Dennis and Elva Buck; his brother: Merle Buck and his sisters: Susan Buck and Laura Buck Tarbox.

A celebration of life will be held Monday morning, October 10th, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in the The Howze Mortuary Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Peter Frampton Miositis Research Fund and Black Hills Works, in honor of his brother David Stordahl.

The family will be continuing the celebration at the home following the service.

The Howze Mortuary, Travelers Rest is in charge of arrangements. (864) 834-8051

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary Chapel
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *My most sincere condolences to the Stordahl and Buck Families. I am heartbroken to hear the news of Jim's passing. I was traveling when I received word and as a result unable to attend the memorial service to pay my respects in person. I'm very sorry I was not able to be there to share with you all what Jim meant to me. Jim was my Battalion Commander in Germany where I served as his Maintenance Officer and later as one of his Company Commanders in the 181st Transportation Battalion. Those were wonderful days for me and my family. Jim's leadership and bigger than life personality made difficult work fun. It was an amazing time to be in the U.S. Army. We worked hard, and we played hard, and Jim was at the center of it all. Jim was a great Commander who with his direct and firm approach taught us all to play with our cards on the table. No matter what the challenge, you always knew where the boss stood. He set high standards and demanded that they be met. He could well wear the grizzly bear demeanor of a hard nosed Army Commander, but his devilish grin and barrel-roll laugh betrayed any attempt to hide the caring and nurturing teddy bear that was his nature. With one sentence Jim changed the view of what my future as a soldier could be, and what the trajectory of my Army career would be. I am forever grateful and eternally indebted to him for that. Mostly though, I will miss his friendship and his remarkable ability to turn any conversation into a party. Well lived, boss! We'll meet you at the bar on the other side. Peace. Respectfully, -Burt Biebuyck, COL, U.S. Army, retired.*

Burt Biebuyck - October 18, 2022 at 12:53 PM

EB

“ *Jim was an extraordinary boss, a thoughtful mentor and a dear friend. He will forever have a place in my heart. Hover High, Boss. xoXO Eileen*

Eileen Bradish-Willett - October 12, 2022 at 07:40 PM

RS

“ Jim was a true friend and someone to admire in so many ways. I feel so fortunate that I knew him. He was as kind a man as I have ever known. The world needs more people like Jim Stordahl.

Ron Sepic - October 12, 2022 at 09:37 AM



“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of James Ralph Stordahl.



October 09, 2022 at 07:41 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of James Ralph Stordahl.



October 08, 2022 at 02:34 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of James Ralph Stordahl.



October 08, 2022 at 11:38 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Ralph Stordahl.*



October 07, 2022 at 07:25 PM



“ *Randie, Melodie and Steve purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of James Ralph Stordahl.*



Randie, Melodie and Steve - October 07, 2022 at 03:46 PM