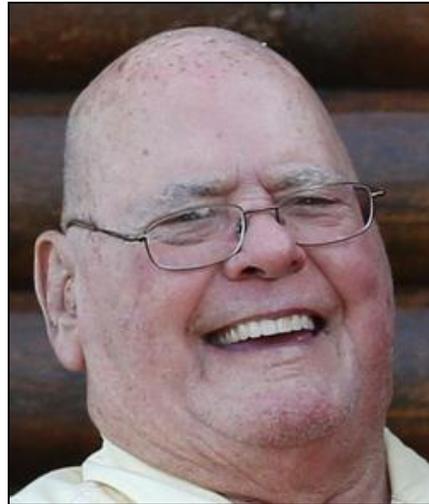


Heritage Funeral Home

Scott Patrick Rodke

(November 4, 1934 - December 3, 2014)

 On the morning of Wednesday, December 3, 2014, Scott Patrick Rodke passed away peacefully of natural causes at his home in Temple, Texas. Scott realized his dream of reaching 80 years of age on November 4. He was blessed by over 70 family and friends at a birthday party celebrating the event.



He was born in the town of Paoli, Oklahoma, in 1934. He was the fourth of five sons born to Anna Frances Scott Rodke and David Lawrence Rodke. He was a proud infantryman and retired from the United States Army as Command Sergeant Major in 1977 after almost 24 years of service, including four tours in Vietnam. Several of his commanders noted that he was the finest soldier they had ever known. His proudest moment was his promotion to Command Sergeant Major and appointment to Commandant of the NCO Academy at Fort Hood. He requested that his headstone be inscribed with, "INFANTRYMAN - HE GAVE A DAMN."

Scott was an adored father, proud businessman, skilled orator, compassionate teacher, respected counsellor, generous friend, and loyal patriot. His greatest joy was his family. He wrote that his greatest emotional pain was leaving his children to return to combat in Vietnam. A man of unparalleled integrity and character, his motto was, "Practice what you preach and NEVER GIVE UP!"

Scott earned two college degrees with honors after his military retirement. He loved to play Monopoly and always wanted to learn to fly a helicopter. He wished to have a view of Mount Rushmore from his front porch. Fond of travel, he especially loved to cruise with family. Scott was proud of his broad shoulders and posture, but wished his waist was ten inches smaller. He loved the smell of vanilla and the taste of cinnamon. He was quite the tennis player when young, and loved to watch all forms of auto racing later in life.

Scott was preceded in death by: his parents; brothers, David Sterling, Larry Russell, Perry Colbert, and twin Phillip Michael; and one grandson.

Scott is survived by his beloved wife of 41 years, Hanh Le' Rodke, whom he married on March 3, 1972; children, Lee Ann Everson, David Vernon Rodke, Joseph Patrick Rodke, Sharon Lynn Bolling, Duy Quy Le', Thanh Le' Rodke, and Lori Hanh Rodke; 16 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services will be at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, Texas. The funeral procession will leave from Heritage Funeral Home in Harker Heights, Texas, at 2:30 p.m. A visitation will be held at the funeral home Monday, December 8, 2014, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Condolences may be left at heritage-funeralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage at friendsofvso.org and the Paralyzed Veterans of America at pva.org.

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