



## Gary L. Mittendorf

January 31, 1945 - August 13, 2024

Gary L. Mittendorf, age 79, passed away on August 13, 2024, at The Arbors of Delaware. Gary was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was an eternal optimist that never met a stranger and had an adventurous spirit and magnetic personality. Born in St. Louis, Missouri on January 31, 1945. Gary was the son of the late Melvin Eugene Charles Mittendorf Sr. and the late Elsie (Rodermund) Mittendorf. Gary attended Lutheran grade schools and Lutheran High School Central in St. Louis and graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 1968, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Following his college education, he enlisted in the Officer Candidate Program in the United States Marine Corps. After receiving his Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1968, he was assigned to Vietnamese Language School training at MCDEC Quantico, Virginia before assuming his duties as an Infantry Platoon Commander and Company Commander in Vietnam. While serving in Vietnam, he received the Bronze Star with Combat V, the Purple Heart, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat V, along with various other medals and service ribbons. Upon his return from Vietnam, he was assigned as a Battalion Personnel Officer and upon completion of his "Active Duty" commitment, he continued his service in the Marine Reserves while pursuing his career in Personnel/Human Resources. He held various Human Resource Management positions with subsidiaries of Fortune 500 companies including such firms as Phillips Coal Company, Phillips Information Systems Inc., Chrysler Technologies, and Gulf

States Paper. He was actively involved in many service organizations and was an officer in Military Order of the Purple Heart, Marine Corps League, various Rotary Clubs, and other Service and Professional organizations. Gary is preceded in death by his loving wife of 48 years, Karen; and brothers, Mel, Michael, and Terry. Gary is survived by his daughter, Julie (Arian); son, Brian (Karen); sister, Carol Steffens; granddaughters, Abby and Sadie; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Services will be held Saturday, August 24 at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 3924 Home Road, Powell, OH 43065. Visitation will be from 10 AM to 11 AM with a Memorial Service at 11 AM.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Semper Fi & America's Fund <https://thefund.org/donate/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
3924 Home Rd  
Powell, OH 43065

## Memorial Service

AUG **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
3924 Home Rd  
Powell, OH 43065

# Tribute Wall

RD

“ Gary and I were in Fox Company together in early 1969. Both young platoon commanders for Captain Hayes, who could make your blood turn cold just with a look. But he was a seasoned leader who taught us both well. I was with Gary the night he got his 1st Purple Heart at Tu Cau bridge. We shared many long theological conversations together. He cared for his men greatly, but his wife most of all. His death hits us all very hard but we know he is reunited with his best gal. I did not keep in touch like I should have but he knew I respected and loved him as only a fellow combat vet can. May God grant peace and grace to the family he leaves behind, but comfort is gained by us since he is now in the arms of his Lord. Ben Dickson

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**Reverand Ben Dickson** - August 24, 2024 at 09:12 PM



“ Gary will be missed, he was a kind, gentle and friendly man at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Many hugs and prayers to his family on this special loss. Hope Boring



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**Hope Boring** - August 21, 2024 at 06:45 PM

WM

“ Our deepest sympathies to all of Gary’s family. He was a great friend and a fellow Marine. He was very honest, very forthcoming and very friendly to everyone he ever met. We served in the Marine Corps League in Waco Texas together and he also was my treasurer in my first political adventure in 1998. He was a big part of the campaign and we won. That victory had a lot had to do with his presence and his persona and I appreciate him very much for all of that. When he and Karen moved from Waco, Texas they were greatly missed, but they were always in our thoughts.

Judge Billy and Ruth Martin,  
Waco, Texas

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**Wm D (Billy) Martin** - August 21, 2024 at 11:17 AM

EM

“ Elaine & Steve McClung purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Gary L. Mittendorf.



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**Elaine & Steve McClung** - August 20, 2024 at 11:21 AM

EM

“ Elaine & Steve McClung planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gary L. Mittendorf.

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**Elaine & Steve McClung** - August 20, 2024 at 11:21 AM

PO

“ A SLOW SALUTE – TO A FELLOW MARINE AND A NATIONAL HERO

THANK YOU - FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.

*We will remember you always and miss you dearly.*

*Take your Warrior's rest for a duty well done.*

*For the Family:*

*I wish to extend my deepest sympathy for the loss of a loved one.*

*May the force of GOD be with you as you walk through this difficult time.*

*May the loving promises of our LORD and Savior comfort you and give you peace and understanding.*

*As a grateful Veteran, I hope you accept this as a small token of appreciation*

*for the honorable and faithful service rendered by your loved one to our Country.*

*Gary was my Platoon Commander and Co. XO.*

*Such a handsome young man with a handle bar mustache - guess which one is Gary in the picture.*

*Farris, Marty and Gary.*

**SEMPER FI**

**SGT. U. S. MARINE CORPS**

**AND VIETNAM VET**

***podom21@comcast.net***



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**PHIL ODOM** - August 19, 2024 at 07:45 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of Gary L. Mittendorf, give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.*

*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Marine Veteran, Gary L. Mittendorf, is “A True American Hero”  
God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - August 17, 2024 at 06:22 AM

RG

“ We have so many wonderful memories of Gary over the years. He has been a life-long friend, with Ray and Gary going to church, grade school, and high school together. When Gary and Karen were dating Ray was the "chauffeur" since Gary didn't have his license. After we were all married, I remember a well a "so you're going to Vietnam" party we had for Gary at our house. Once he was out of the service we enjoyed going to some parties together and later visiting them in Texas. Once they moved to Ohio we would stop by a couple times a year for a visit on our way from St. Louis to visit our kids in New Hampshire. We were planning to go on a cruise together and then Karen got sick. Before she died Karen made Gary promise he would go on that cruise with us someday. So, in 2015 Gary, Ray and I went on a cruise through the Panama Canal. It was a great time and I'm so happy we have those memories. In the past few years neither Gary nor Ray could travel so they would catch up over the phone a few times a month. Old friends are the best and Gary was a great friend. He will be missed.

Ray and Mary Beth Granger



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Ray and Mary Beth Granger - August 16, 2024 at 03:29 PM

RF

God's peace be with the Mittendorf and Granger families. Good memories of playing softball as kids.

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Rev.Tom Schindler (retired), friend from - August 16, 2024 at 06:40 PM

WP

“ I truly enjoyed knowing him at Saint John's College! Very positive!  
Wayne Person

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Wayne Person - August 16, 2024 at 12:16 PM

AD

“ I never had the pleasure of meeting Gary, as I served with Foxtrot 2/1 in 1966-1967. But as a Brother Marine in F/2/1, I wanted to send condolences to the Family from the Marines who served F2/1 in 1966-1967. Rest In Peace Our Brother!! Semper Fi!! 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

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**Alex DiGiacomo** - August 16, 2024 at 11:53 AM

TM

“ I met Gary when he arrived in Vietnam 1968. He was a young bright 2 nd Lt. who was an endearing soul. We became friends and over the time in Vietnam became close. On March 19th 1969 I was wounded and sent to NSA hospital Danang. On March 21, 1969 Gary was wounded at Tu Cau bridge, oddly the same place I was. The last time I saw Gary was in March until 1998 when I reunited all of my men from 2 nd and 3 rd platoons in Fox Co. From that day on Gary and I stayed close and spoke almost weekly. My wife and daughter loved him dearly, he was a wonderful human being. I know he is with Karen now and surely in a better place. You will be truly missed my dear friend. Love The Matteos

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**Thomas Stormy Matteo** - August 16, 2024 at 12:35 AM

VB

“ Gary will always be remembered by the Marines and Corpsman he served with with 2d Bn 1st Marines in Vietnam. He was a great Marine and Leader of Men. Deepest Sympathy and Prayers to Karen and the Family. Semper Fi

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**Vinnie Burdziuk** - August 15, 2024 at 07:49 PM

SA

“ He will be so missed!What a strong man with a great sense of humor ❤️ Thinking of you guys,he always talked about you with pride and love❤️ Sending hugs and love!Sussi

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**susanne Aller** - August 15, 2024 at 05:11 PM