



## Colonel Retired James Drake

October 22, 1946 - June 7, 2016

Colonel (Ret) James Maurice Drake II, age 69, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, June 7, 2016. COL Drake was born on October 22, 1946 in Montpelier, Ohio to the late James Maurice Drake and Wilma Chestnut Drake. Jim is survived by his wife of 33 years, Ruth Eaton Drake; his children, James M. Drake III of Berea, KY, Jay (Rita) Drake of Richmond, KY, Alicia (Stan) Riley of Frankfort, KY and Ashleigh (Mark) Kennedy of Lawrenceburg, KY; six grandchildren, Caleb and Wyatt Kennedy; Nicholas, Ethan and Gavin Riley; Shayla Allen, and his beloved dog, Woodee; two brothers, Jerry (Anita) Drake of Phoenix, AZ and Tom Drake of Ossian, IN and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Jim attended Eastern Kentucky University where he enrolled in the Army ROTC program and was heavily involved in Pershing Rifles. He completed his education at EKU in 1969 as a Distinguished Military Graduate and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US Army. He served proudly on active duty for nearly ten years. His service took him to Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. He served in various stateside duty stations including Fort Knox, Fort Sill, and Fort Lewis. Jim discovered an opportunity to serve his Nation as well as the Commonwealth and joined the Kentucky National Guard in 1978. He served in numerous assignments in both Field Artillery and Aviation branches. His last assignment was on the Adjutant General's staff as the Director of Personnel. COL Drake retired on April 30, 1995 with more than 26 years of military service. His numerous awards and decorations included

the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Master Army Aviator Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Jim loved music. In particular he enjoyed brass bands and American March music. He was quite an accomplished tuba player.

Arrangements are under the direction of LeCompte Johnson Taylor Funeral Home, 1725 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Sunday, June 12 from 1:00 PM-4:00 PM EST for family and friends. The funeral will be held at First United Methodist Church, 211 Washington St., Frankfort, KY 40601 on Monday, June 13. Visitation will be from 12:00 PM EST to 1:00 PM EST at the church with funeral to follow at 1:00 PM EST. COL Drake will be interred at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff, Kentucky at a time to be determined. Military honors will be conducted by the Kentucky National Guard.

Serving as honorary pallbearers will be MG (Ret) Michael Davidson, COL (Ret) Roger Green, COL (Ret) Cleland White, MAJ (Ret) Marty Pinkston, Greg Strange, Bobby Courtney, Denny Tigges and Charles Smith.

Expressions of sympathy can be made to Kentucky National Guard Memorial, PO Box 5466, Frankfort, KY 40602-5466 or United Methodist Church, 211 Washington Street, Frankfort, Ky 40601.

You may share memories and leave condolences on his tribute wall at [www.ljtfuneralhome.com](http://www.ljtfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **12**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

LeCompte-Johnson-Taylor Funeral Home  
1725 Louisville Rd.  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 223-5858  
ljtfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://ljtfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

JUN **13**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church  
211 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

## Funeral Services

JUN **13**. 1:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church  
211 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

# Tribute Wall

MN

“ *MSG (R) Sharon Newby sent a virtual gift in memory of Colonel Retired James Drake*



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**MSG (R) Sharon Newby** - June 15, 2016 at 04:01 PM

MN

*I will always remember COL Drake as being an intelligent man with a heart of gold. He cared for his fellow employees and for the service like few Officers I had ever met. He will be greatly missed. Ruth - I'm so sorry for your loss.*

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**MSG (R) Sharon Newby** - June 15, 2016 at 04:05 PM

RS

“ *Ruth, Jim made such an impression on me from the day I meet in 1979 as a new recruit. Helicopter pilot, Army Ranger and all around "good guy", Jim just made you want to be around him. He shaped my short career as a KYNG Officer and I always looked up to him. From his love of his beat up yellow Subaru, to playing the bass guitar (the big one), flying a group from Fort Hood to Mexico, to recently his untiring drive for the Kentucky National Guard Memorial. I know I only scratched the surface of Jim. Jim liked life full of passion!*

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**R. Neal Simon** - June 13, 2016 at 09:50 AM

TP

“ Ruth, I still think about Jim being with us in Ariz. for the Workers Comp workshop and the conversations he and I had about the military and 'good beer'. He was simply great to be around and he enjoyed life. My thoughts and prayers are with you. LTC Tim Pickerrell

Tim Pickerrell - June 12, 2016 at 09:47 AM

CR

“ Crystal Rainer lit a candle in memory of Colonel Retired James Drake



Crystal Rainer - June 11, 2016 at 08:26 PM

JB

“ Judy & Jr. Buster lit a candle in memory of Colonel Retired James Drake



Judy & Jr. Buster - June 11, 2016 at 03:56 PM

JB

“ Ruth,  
We are so sorry for your loss.

Judy & Jr. Buster - June 11, 2016 at 03:55 PM

JB

“ *Ruth.*  
*We are so sorry for your loss. Prayers & thoughts are with you.*

Judy & Jr. Bustet - June 11, 2016 at 03:53 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Colonel Retired James Drake.*



June 10, 2016 at 08:46 AM

YT

“ *Your Dorton United Methodist Church Family of Crossville, TN purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Colonel Retired James Drake.*



Your Dorton United Methodist Church Family of Crossville,  
TN - June 09, 2016 at 09:43 PM

GA

“ *Glenn Alford lit a candle in memory Colonel James Drake, may you RIP brother.*



Glenn Alford - June 09, 2016 at 08:18 PM

JD

“ When Jim was a Senior in HS, he had a scooter and offered to let me ride on the back to school one morning. I did, but when we hit the end of the driveway, the bump knocked me off the back. He just laughed and turned around the had me get back on and told me I had to hold on tighter. I did that from then on. I still hold him tight in my mind.

We talked on the phone every Sunday for the past few years just to catch up on what went on during the past week and what was planned for the next. He was always pushing me to share my "fitbit" information, but I know if was just so he knew that he was ahead of me for steps....or total exercise, so I pleaded stupid and didn't share. I know it was only to push me to exercise more since I retired and I love him for that.

RIP Jim, I love and miss you every day!

Jerry Drake

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**Jerry Drake** - June 09, 2016 at 07:44 PM



“ 100 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Lecompte Johnson Taylor Funeral Home** - June 09, 2016 at 05:52 PM

RL

“ *Ruth, you and your family, are in my thoughts and prayers. Jim was a great mentor, patriot, and friend. Rest in peace Jim. You will be missed.* ”



Ray Latendresse - June 09, 2016 at 04:37 PM

JE

*Ruth, our hearts are heavy and our prayers are with you.*

Jenny - June 09, 2016 at 09:42 PM

DC

*Jim was my mentor at ECU in band and ROTC band, joining the Pershing Rifles; he encouraged my career as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, which led to my success in my personal career. We last saw Jim on one of his visits to New Orleans a number of years ago and were proud of his career and success. I will personally miss Jim.*

Dan Cooksey - June 10, 2016 at 02:46 PM

SL

“ *Stacey Lykins lit a candle in memory of Colonel Retired James Drake* ”



Stacey Lykins - June 09, 2016 at 03:14 PM

PH

“ *Pat Hampton lit a candle in memory of Colonel Retired James Drake* ”



Pat Hampton - June 09, 2016 at 02:06 PM

MG

“ *MSG Connie Gwinn lit a candle in memory of Colonel Retired James Drake*



MSG Connie Gwinn - June 09, 2016 at 11:43 AM

MG

*Ruth, You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

MSG Connie Gwinn - June 09, 2016 at 11:44 AM

JW

“ *Jim would regularly sit in with the 202nd Army Band to rehearse and perform with us. He was a talented brass musician and our soldiers were impressed by his ability and personable nature. He seldom lacked a smile or words of encouragement. He was a patriot and I enjoyed serving with him on the KY NG Memorial Fund board. Ruth you are in my families prayers and hearts and those of the 202nd Army Band.*

Jim Wallace - June 09, 2016 at 11:20 AM

MB

“ *Melissa Bohn lit a candle in memory of Colonel Retired James Drake*



Melissa Bohn - June 09, 2016 at 10:45 AM

BD

“ Col Drake hired me in November 1990. He was the G1 Director for the KYARNG and I was a E4 (Specialist) in my early twenties. Over the past 25 years I learned what most of you already know, Jim Drake was an exceptional man. COL (retired) James Drake served his nation with honor and distinction. He was a devoted husband, father, brother and son, and yes...grandfather! His love for country motivated his service in uniform and in retirement. I remember working with Jim most recently on the Veterans Day memorial service 11Nov15 and this past Memorial Day 30May16 for the first annual Memorial Day observance honoring Kentucky Guardsmen who sacrificed their lives for this nation. Jim epitomized what it means to be a patriot.

*Ruth, you have been and continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Bill Draper*

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**Bill Draper** - June 09, 2016 at 07:40 AM

FC

“ From your Texas cousins purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Colonel Retired James Drake.



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**From your Texas cousins** - June 08, 2016 at 07:15 PM

TD

“ Tim & Kim Durham lit a candle in memory of Colonel Retired James Drake



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**Tim & Kim Durham** - June 08, 2016 at 03:34 PM

MS

“ Jim was a great coworker at the Department of Aviation. He took me on my first helicopter ride and loved to banter back and forth with me. He will be missed and was certainly a good friend. Ruth, you are in my prayers and if you need anything at all let me know, we are just down the road on Avenstoke.

Prayers,  
Melissa Scott



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**Melissa Scott** - June 08, 2016 at 03:01 PM

JL

“ 2 files added to the album misc



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**Jason LeMay** - June 08, 2016 at 01:50 PM