



## Col. James R. Lile

January 16, 1948 - May 18, 2014

Col. James R. Lile, (Ret., KY ANG) 66, passed away on Sunday, May 18 at his home in Frankfort, KY, after a 15-month battle with cancer.

Jim was born on January 16, 1948 in Christian County, KY. He graduated from Christian County High School in 1966 and received his Bachelors of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1971.

Jim was a leader and mentor in many aspects of the community: State Government, church, Kentucky National Guard, Kentucky Association of Transportation Engineers and Commonwealth Credit Union, to name a few. Mr. Lile began his service in Kentucky state government in May, 1967 when he participated in the Engineer Scholarship Program. He was a life-long merit employee and retired in 2002 as Branch Manager of the Bridge Construction Division of the Transportation Cabinet.

Jim attended church faithfully. Most recently he was a member of Bridgeport Christian Church. Previously he was ordained and served as a deacon of Graefenburg Baptist Church and also served as deacon of First Baptist Church, Frankfort.

Colonel Lile first enlisted in the Kentucky National Guard on June 23, 1970. He became an officer on June 24, 1977. His service took him to Germany and Ecuador, among other places. Jim commanded the 206th Engineer Battalion in Richmond, KY from June 1, 1995 to September 30, 1998. His military awards included: the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army

Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the Kentucky Meritorious Service Ribbon, the Kentucky Commendation Ribbon, the Kentucky Service Ribbon and the Kentucky State Active Duty Ribbon. He retired on June 30, 2004 at the rank of Colonel, after serving his country for 34 years.

Mr. Lile was registered as a Professional Civil Engineer and he was very active in the Kentucky Association of Transportation Engineers, serving as president of the organization for one year.

Jim's service to his community included involvement with the Commonwealth Credit Union, where he served on the credit committee for 18 years – from 1991 to 2009.

Jim is survived by his wife, Sherry Lile; daughters Natalie Lile (Shawn Daniel) and Allison Lile; grandchildren Julia Martinez, Emily Reed, Kyle Reed, Courtney Daniel and Rachel Daniel; great-grand-daughter Eva Rogers; and sister Carolyn Stamper of Hopkinsville, KY. He was preceded in death by his parents Harold and Lillian Lile, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

Family was of utmost importance to Jim. He loved his daughters and grandchildren, providing priceless advice and counsel for more than 40 years. He was very proud of his daughters' education and professional accomplishments, both earning advanced degrees.

Jim and his wife, Sherry Lile, were married 47 years. They were inseparable – a true fairy tale love story. They spent 46 years raising children, grandchildren, travelling, dancing and laughing. They spent the last year cherishing every minute in each other's company.

Jim loved life, travelling widely with family and friends. He spent winters in Clearwater Florida with his wife Sherry, where they hosted friends most of the time they were there. He was an avid fan of University of Kentucky basketball and, when in Frankfort, could be found with family and friends at Casa Fiesta several times a week.

Visitation will be held at LeCompte Johnson Taylor Funeral Home from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, May 24. A funeral service with full military honors will occur

at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 25 at Bridgeport Christian Church in Frankfort. The family will host a celebration of life reception at Casa Fiesta on Louisville Road at 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 25.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Kentucky Wounded Warriors Program, c/o Bluegrass Military Affairs Coalition, 128 E. Reynolds Rd., Suite 201, Lexington, KY 40517

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **24**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

## Memorial Service

MAY **25**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bridgeport Christian  
175 Evergreen Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
<http://www.bridgeportchristian.org>

## Celebration of Life

MAY **25**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Casa Fiesta  
801 Louisville Rd  
Frankfort, KY 40601

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ *Sherry, Larry and I are so sad to hear of Jim's passing. He was much too young. We will always have fond memories of our dinners out with you two. May God bless and keep you during this difficult time. Hope to see you in Florida this winter.*

*Your FL neighbors, Judi and Larry Richardson*

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**Judith Richardson** - June 05, 2014 at 07:25 AM

SE

“ *Shirley Ezell sent a virtual gift in memory of Col. James R. Lile*



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**Shirley Ezell** - May 22, 2014 at 01:01 AM

SE

“ *Shirley Ezell lit a candle in memory of Col. James R. Lile*



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**Shirley Ezell** - May 22, 2014 at 12:53 AM

SE

*My sincerest sympathy to Sherry, Natalie and Allison and the rest of the family. Jim and Sherry were a true inspiration to me and the rest of their friends and classmates. He will be missed. My prayers go out to Sherry and daughters in this time of sorrow.*

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**Shirley Ezell** - May 22, 2014 at 12:59 AM

MR

“ Jim and Sherry were the perfect example of what a marriage should be. You could tell by the way they looked at each other that they adored one another. At our high school class reunions they always had a smile on their faces and truly enjoyed seeing their old friends from school  
Jim will truly be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with Sherry and the family.

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**Maxine Rittenberry** - May 21, 2014 at 10:17 PM

CB

“ Was very saddened to learn of Jim's passing. Worked with Jim for several years and found him to be an outstanding, dedicated, and very capable man.  
Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Lile and all the family.

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**Charles Baesler** - May 21, 2014 at 01:44 PM

JA

“ Col. Lile ( as I called him) was a fine leader. He was one of the best company and battalion commanders I have had the honor of serving for. He is a fine gentleman and officer. He will be missed. James( Pony) Cowan

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**James(Pony)Cowan** - May 21, 2014 at 01:31 PM

SA

“ My condolences to his family. It was truly an honor to have served with Colonel Lile as a Squad Leader in the 206th Engineers and Detachment Sergeant with 75th TC.

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**SFC John M Askin** - May 21, 2014 at 09:27 AM

SA

“ *SFC John M Askin lit a candle in memory of Col. James R. Lile*



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**SFC John M Askin** - May 21, 2014 at 09:14 AM

SC

“ *SSG Birgit I. Corriveau lit a candle in memory of Col. James R. Lile*



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**SSG Birgit I. Corriveau** - May 21, 2014 at 06:42 AM

CH

“ *Christy Stone Halloran lit a candle in memory of Col. James R. Lile*



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**Christy Stone Halloran** - May 20, 2014 at 12:38 PM