



LTC (Ret) Paul Michael Marek

August 14, 1942 - March 23, 2021

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Paul Michael Marek of Hammond, Louisiana, age 78, left this earth to be with his Lord and Savior at 9:45 a.m., Tuesday, March 23 2021 after a sudden heart attack.

He was born on August 14, 1942, in Du Quoin, Illinois, the son of Loddie and Bernice Marek.

After graduating from Du Quoin Township High School in 1960, Paul came down to the south to attend Louisiana State University on a football scholarship.

Upon completing his freshman year, he left the team to focus on his studies, as well as a potential military career via the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

Paul graduated from LSU in 1964, accepting a commission as a Lieutenant in the United States Army. He spent the next 26 years in the service of his country, including a tour of duty during the Vietnam War.

It was there that he was awarded the BRONZE STAR for heroic valor in a combat zone.

After the war, Paul earned his Masters' Degree in Education from the University of Georgia. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1978. Both educational milestones were achieved while on active duty.

During his military career, Paul was the recipient of many awards, including the LEGION OF MERIT, given for exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service.

He retired from active duty in 1990 following the completion of his final assignment, which brought him to Southeastern Louisiana University as Professor of Military Science, heading Southeastern's ROTC program.

Upon retirement from the army, Paul embarked on a second career as Director of Campus Police for Southeastern Louisiana University. It was during his 15-year tenure that he served the campus and surrounding community with distinction.

While living in Hammond, Paul became an integral member of the Hammond Kiwanis Club, which became his passion.

He served as President from 1990-1992, Secretary from 1997-2008, Treasurer from 2010-2012 and remained an active member until his death. In 2005, Paul was awarded the GEORGE HIXSON FELLOWSHIP (given in honor of Kiwanis International's first President).

Paul was preceded in death by his wife, DeNise Smith Marek; father and mother Loddie and Bernice Marek. He is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Joseph H., and Meghan M. Gallinaro, granddaughters Jillian Marie and Barbara Claire, Baton Rouge; son and daughter-in-law Jonathan M. Sr. and Caroline M. Gallinaro; grandsons, Jonathan M. Jr. and Crosby J. Gallinaro,

Atlanta, Georgia; brother and sister-in-law, Thomas A. and Sandra K. Marek, DuQuoin Illinois; brother-in-law and sister-in-law LTC. (Ret.) Tally E. Smith and Roni R. Smith, Kathleen Georgia; Two nephews, two nieces, and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

Visitation will be at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in Hammond Tuesday, April 6, at 9:30 a.m. with the funeral Mass following directly at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hammond Kiwanis Club, PO Box 2944, Hammond LA, 70404.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Albert the Great Chapel
409 W Dakota St
Hammond, LA 70401

Funeral Mass

APR 6. 10:30 PM (CT)

St. Albert the Great Chapel
409 W Dakota St
Hammond, LA 70401

Tribute Wall



“ *Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of LTC (Ret) Paul Michael Marek*



Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home - April 07, 2021 at 12:44 PM

PK

“ My name is John Phillip Kowzan and I am Paul's cousin. We grew up together in fact we were just across the street. We played games like sandlot football and baseball in the neighborhood. I received my commission in the Army thru the ROTC program at the University of Idaho. Some of my best memories happened while we were both in the Army. Although we never served in the same units together, we did visit. The first visit was in Germany where we were both stationed around 1965; the next times our paths crossed was in South Vietnam. He was down in the delta and I was in Saigon. Paul came to Saigon on business one day and knowing where my duty station was dropped by the office as a surprise to me. The 4th Trans. Comm. where I was working had a newspaper with photographers and they took a picture of us standing in front of a kiosk and printed it in the paper with an article about us. I still have that article. Next time we were in the same post was at FT Gordon, GA. I had just finished the Office Advanced Course and he was getting ready to take next "semester". It was a nine month course so we got to spend a lot of time together. The last time I saw Paul was in 2016 when my wife went back to Du Quoin for my highschool seventh reunion. After the reunion we drove down to Hammond and spent 3 wonderful days with him. Paul was a super guy.

Phil Kowzan - April 08, 2021 at 12:25 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of LTC (Ret) Paul Michael Marek.



April 05, 2021 at 10:17 AM

LF

“ Louisiana Radio Network Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of LTC (Ret) Paul Michael Marek.



Louisiana Radio Network Family - April 05, 2021 at 09:32 AM

PS

“ Paul was a dedicated christian, an American patriot, a great Kiwanian and a wonderful friend. We had many conversations over the years, and I especially enjoyed his reflections on the years of service he rendered our nation. I miss him, but I look forward to the day we will worship our Lord and Savior together.

Pat Settoon - April 03, 2021 at 04:48 PM

LB

“ To the Marek family: Paul was the first friend and advocate I had when I arrived in Hammond in 1989. He enlisted me that very year to bring Special Olympics to Hammond and intervened when I was "threatened" by a Klansman who expressed his resentment for my "not having a husband" to manage my life. The very frightening encounter was VERY short lived when I shared my concerns with my new and only friend. What an amazing man who was always so tough on the surface and so caring and protective to those he knew.
Louise Bostic

louise bostic - April 02, 2021 at 11:49 AM

LS

“ Paul Marek is the first person I formally met when I moved to Hammond, La. in 1989 and we became friends and also Kiwanians shortly thereafter. It is with a heavy heart that the news reaches me of his untimely death. My prayers and sympathy goes out to his family and friends and to you Paul, May the Lord receive you in his kingdom and if I am lucky enough to make it there one day, we will resume our friendship. Sincerely , Luther J. Simon

Luther J. Simon - April 01, 2021 at 02:53 PM

RB

“ I am truly sorry for your loss. With deepest Sympathy.
Robert Barron

Robert Barron - April 01, 2021 at 01:10 PM

RC

“ Fond memories of my Kiwanis Brother. Rest In Peace, Paul.....rc

Ricky Currier - April 01, 2021 at 10:36 AM

HG

“ I am so heartbroken to hear of Colonel Marek's passing. He was a very gracious man whom I had the honor of working for at SLU's Military Science Department some years ago. I would see him from time to time at St. Albert's Chapel and we would always have a nice chat. I think he was new to Facebook, and we just became friends on it. He was a very good man who will be missed by the many who knew him. Eternal rest grant to him oh Lord and let Perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul rest in peace. 🙏

Helen Good - March 29, 2021 at 06:52 PM

SM

“ I'll never forget the first time I ever met Col. Marek. I was sitting in my office in the Foreign Languages Department complaining about the parking being so tight around White Hall, and wondering who was responsible for the mess. The spaces were too close together. Col. Marek walked in about that time and spoke up to say "It was me". Boy did I feel embarrassed. From that point on we were good. Col. Marek will always have a special place in my heart. I pray that God's peace and comfort cover each of the family members during this time of sorrow. I know he will be greatly missed.



SANDRA A MILLER - March 25, 2021 at 11:26 AM