



Roddy Lynn Hopkins

October 1, 1949 - July 27, 2018

Roddy Lynn Hopkins, 68, long-time resident of Grand Prairie, passed away on Friday, July 27, 2017 in Arlington, Texas.

Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, August 6, 2018 at Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home.

Graveside Service: 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at DFW National Cemetery.

Roddy Hopkins was born on October 1, 1949 in Paris, Texas, the oldest of 4 children. He would move to Grand Prairie at a young age, attending schools graduating from Grand Prairie High School in 1968.

On September 22, 1969, Roddy would begin his service in the US Army. He quickly distinguished himself as a true leader and point man for company D in the 3rd Battalion of the 23rd Infantry Division. The following is a letter written on his behalf.

Awarded: Silver Star

Date of Service: 21 October 1970

Authority: by direction of the President under the provision of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.

For gallantry in the action against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, Private First Class Hopkins distinguished himself by intrepid actions on 21 October 1970 while serving as a Patrol Leader with Company D, 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting a search and clear operation when when enemy activity was detected within 50 meters. With complete disregard for is own personal safety, he unhesitatingly braved the intense volley of fire impacting near him to maneuver toward the enemy emplacement. Through his timely and courageous actions, he was largely responsible for the total defeat of the hostile element and the overall success of his units mission.

Not only was he awarded a Silver Star, he also was awarded a Bronze Star. His service to

his country is greatly admired by all who know him.

When time allowed and Roddy was feeling well, he loved playing golf. He also enjoyed watching the Texas Rangers baseball team.

Survivors: wife of 7 years, Barbara Samples Kelley; siblings, Kevin Stockin and his spouse Shelly, Rexanne Stockin, Jamie Stockin; niece, Kim Villarreal and her spouse Joe.

He also leaves behind his loving companion and pal rat terrier, Scooter.

A letter from a friend:

Roddy was a kind-hearted soul that never met a stranger. If he liked you, you knew it because he always tried to put a smile on your face and make you feel welcomed. He always has an interesting fact or tidbit about something. In many ways, we were two peas in a pod with way too many factoids together.

Roddy had a knack of being so enthusiastic about something that you began to love that thing almost as much as he did. Case in point, I never knew that Barbara was a die-hard Texas Ranger fan until I saw her watching a game with Roddy. They were both so excited that you couldn't help but pay attention and cheer along with them. Barbara and Roddy were a great match for each, and it was equally infectious in how much they loved each other.

Roddy loved his friends and they loved him. It says a lot for someone who managed to keep in touch and close to many of the same friends from his childhood and younger years.

Roddy was a true war hero but he never thought of himself as a hero. I had the privilege of him quietly sharing how he was awarded the Silver Star Medal. He didn't think it was something special but rather just something that he did for his buddies.

Roddy didn't think of himself as anything different than you buddy. Well, I will miss my buddy Roddy. I will miss listening to the Allman Brothers Band, drinking a beer, and spending time with a rare soul that always shared his true self and who was always happy to be your friend!

Till next time bud!

Cemetery

DFW National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek
Parkway
Dallas, TX, 75211

Events

AUG **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

6

Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home
500 E. Main Street, Grand Prairie, TX, US, 75050

AUG **Graveside Service** 02:30PM - 03:00PM

7

DFW National Cemetery
2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX, US,
75211

Comments



“ Special thanks to Roddy Hopkins to his service to our great country, and prayers of comfort go out to his family and friends for their loss...d Huffman, PGR, vet, and chaplain

Don Huffman - August 07, 2018 at 10:59 AM



“ Silvia and Rodney Wallace ~ Cedar Hill, Tx purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Roddy Lynn Hopkins.



Silvia and Rodney Wallace ~ Cedar Hill, Tx - August 04, 2018 at 07:30 PM



“ Barbara, my husband Rodney and I would like to extend to you our deepest most heartfelt condolences and prayers of comfort and also to your entire family. May you rest in peace brave friend and soldier...

I first met Roddy over 5 decades ago along with many other Grand Prairie friends. I personally will always remember Roddy as a dear, kind, and gentle friend. During his service in Vietnam, I came to know him also as a very brave young soldier with a tremendous heart full of courage. Roddy was such a blessing to know from the very beginning and later on, in the early 70's I was happy, honored and blessed to become one of his pen pals during his years of service and sacrifice in Vietnam and to our country. A few years ago, in 2009, I was happy to be able to thank him again for his service and sacrifice when he joined a special Grand Prairie High School Alumni website, which he kindly contributed to with some of his amazing photos that he brought back from Vietnam. Some of the 50 year old photos were dull and aged, but beautifully restored and color corrected by a very talented GP friend of ours and Roddy's, Brent Ramsey. They were included in several special Veteran's Day videos honoring Roddy, along with many other brave soldiers, childhood friends and family members from Grand Prairie, who also fought and sacrificed for our country during US wars, including WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The videos are also special to me because they include my precious father, brave soldier and my own personal hero during his WWII service in Italy where he met and married my mother and brought her to America after the war ended. The Veteran's Day videos that include Roddy's photos are still on the GP website, if you ever care to view them one day, Barbara. I hope that you will.

May God bless you and comfort you during this most difficult time of great loss. And may you be forever blessed with the assurance that your beloved Roddy is now in Heaven for all eternity, free of all pain or suffering and resting in peace in the loving arms of our creator and Lord Jesus Christ and Savior, Amen...

Silvia and Rodney Wallace - Cedar Hill, Texas



Silvia Wallace' - August 04, 2018 at 06:05 PM



“ 44 files added to the album LifeTributes



Guerrero - Dean Funeral Home - August 04, 2018 at 01:13 PM



“ Barbara, You are in our prayers during this time of sorrow. I never met or knew Roddy but knowing you he must have been a terrific fellow. Hold on to the love and memories that you and Roddy made and in time all of this will become easier. We again send our love and prayers. RIP Roddy...

Janet Reed and Charles "Butch" Worley
Clay, Alabama



Janet Reed Worley - July 30, 2018 at 11:28 PM



“ I met Roddy through Barbara and he was always a kind and gentle man. Roddy, go rest high on that Mountain. Your work on Earth is done. God needs another precious angel. Prayers to you Barbara

Gerry Page - July 30, 2018 at 05:56 PM