



Dave E. Shaver

May 5, 1942 - November 9, 2022

Colonel Dave Shaver, 80, Crown Point, IN passed away on November 9, 2022. He is survived by his loving wife Mary Ann of 51 years marriage, their daughter Ashley Putnam Shaver of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and two sisters- Helen (Robert) Kelley of Melbourne, FL and Susan (Jack) Rodber of Jupiter, FL and Dave's sisters' children and grandchildren. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, son of Robert M. (Bob) Shaver and Margaretta Frisk (Dolly) Shaver.

Colonel Shaver was a soldier, author, educator, and a loving husband and father. He was a friend to many, particularly to those with whom he served during his 30 years of military service, those in his hometown and from Epworth Heights, Ludington, Michigan, where he spent his summers with his grandmother, Helen Putnam Shaver, an author, local Ludington historian and accomplished regional Michigan artist. In his youth in Ludington, he worked for Don Abrahamson's Standard Service, Pentwater Wire and Tamarac Marina, as well as several jobs in Epworth. He enjoyed playing golf, tennis, swimming, waterskiing, and of course, beach parties. He absolutely loved Ludington and its people.

Starting his Army career as a Private E-1 in the District of Columbia Army National Guard, he retired as a Regular Army Full Colonel. He commanded companies in Vietnam and in Germany, and commanded the oldest and most

decorated 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One) at Fort Riley, Kansas and the 12th Engineer Battalion, 8th Infantry Division in West Germany. He was particularly proud of the latter command since the battalion won every award his division, corps and theater of operations had to offer in safety, reenlistment, maintenance and the prestigious Best German-American Friendship Award, presented to him by Minister President Richard von Weizsacker of the Free Republic of Germany (West Germany). He was selected for Brigade Command in 1992 and was installed into the Engineer Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in that same year.

After graduating from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania he remained at the college and taught Command, Leadership and Management to the army's future leaders, including several who became Generals. His primary duty at the war college was serving as a Strategic Research Analyst in the Strategic Studies Institute-the Army's "think tank." He published more than 20 studies, including one which included his prediction that the Berlin Wall would come down 18 months before it actually happened (the only known accurate prediction at the time). He also co-authored a book entitled "On Disarmament: The Role of Conventional Arms Control in National Security Strategy," written from experience as a Joint Chiefs of Staff Arms Control Negotiator in Vienna, Austria. For his efforts he was awarded faculty tenure and the General of the Army Douglas MacArthur Academic Chair of Research. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit with 1st Oak leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal and several campaign and service medals.

In civilian life he was a class of 1960 graduate of Crown Point High School (IN), where he participated in athletics, student government, class plays, band, the National Honor Society, and attended the American Legion-sponsored Hoosier Boys' State. He attended Colgate University, graduated

from the University of Nebraska, Omaha and attained a Master of Science degree in Traffic and Transportation Management from the Florida Institute of Technology. In his after- Army life he served multi-billionaire Ross Perot as Perot's State Director (CEO) of United We Stand America, PA, Inc., and later as Perot's Pennsylvania Presidential Campaign Manager in the 1996 run. He later served several years as a military contractor, serving as a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command official field observer of the new, modular force structure design, travelling to nearly every army division headquarters and the national training centers. Concurrently, he wrote more than 380 newspaper columns from the 9/11 attacks until his journalistic retirement in 2017. His columns concerned National Security and politics. He worked for the Midwest newspapers of the Small Newspaper Group, including at the time the Kankakee Daily- Journal, Ottawa Times, Moline Post- Dispatch, Rock Island Argus, Quad City Times of Illinois and Iowa, and the Rochester, MN Post- Bulletin.

Colonel Dave and Mary Ann moved back to his old hometown of Crown Point in 1998 where they became members of the 1st Presbyterian Church, the Old Homestead Preservation Society, Youche Country Club, the Gary Sportsman Club, American Legion Post #20 in Crown Point and later Post #261 in Cedar Lake, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1563 in Merrillville, the Cedar Lake Yacht Club, the Army Heritage Foundation, and the Army War College Alumni Foundation. Throughout his life he had a twinkle in his eye, and would always try to inject humor into often difficult situations, on and off the "battlefields" of life. His success rate was actually pretty high.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. until time of memorial service at 1:00 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Rev. John Starr officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to www.legion.org. www.burnsfuneral.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Memorial Service

NOV **19**. 1:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

CM

“ *Bulletproof Dave!*
Worked as Dave's S-3 to turnaround the 1st Engr Bn when as XO he replaced the Bn Cdr. Took charge the 1st day, replacing the Bn motto from "Bulletproof", challenging a proud battalion to earn back the right back to say "Always 1st". We laid out the game plan and in less than 4 months every company passed their AIG with flying colors. Proud to have served under his command.

Clayton myhre - May 05, 2025 at 12:19 PM

EB

“ *I just saw his name in TAPS in the U.S. Army War College alumni news. I had the pleasure of working with Dave on the Army Transformation Team at Fort Indiantown Gap. I enjoyed many conversations about politics and especially his experiences on the Perot campaign. Dave was a brilliant thinker, great writer, and an even greater human being.*

Edward Beck - August 30, 2023 at 09:27 PM

DK

“ *A great loss for the USA. "Dual primed" in Dexheim, Germany was his saying during my service under Mr. Shaver back in 1984. Certainly someone that could inspire the best out of people.*

Dan Kuenneke

Dan Kuenneke - July 20, 2023 at 04:25 PM

DH

“ Sorry to post so late
I live in Florida now and just found out about the Colonel's passing
I am Dale Horton, CWO Henry Horton's son
When I was little I knew him as Captain Davey Dump Truck
I thought then it was because of his stature
I found out later when I was home on leave that if you tangled with
dump truck you would felt as though you were ran over by one
The friendship between my father and Dave was cemented in
Vietnam and lasted the rest of their Army careers and sadly until my
father's passing in 2012
I called him Uncle Colonel and enjoyed the friendship I had with him
until I moved to Florida
He was truly one of a kind and he called them like he seen them
Whether you agreed with him or not
You know where he stood and he would not compromise
Rest in Peace Colonel!! I can't thank you enough for your support
for my family when we lost Dad!
My condolences to your wife and daughter!
My Dad always said Dave was always about his soldiers well being,
not his own!
That's what made him the Hero we all collectively miss! Auf
Wiedersehen Herr Colonel!!

Dale Horton - March 31, 2023 at 10:34 AM

TI

“ David Shaver was one of Crown Points very own. I personally was
proud to know him because of his military service. He never
bragged about his service as a full bird colonel but when asked
about it wasn't hesitant about telling you of his many experience's.
A true American citizen which we all need more of today!!
Sincerely, Tim Heidbreder

timheidbreder - November 20, 2022 at 12:41 PM

JS

“ Dear Mary Ann- I was saddened to hear of your husbands death. When I met you with others at the Resale shop last fall I learned that he was very ill but you were hopeful of his recovery. My condolences to you friend and hope you will lean on your memories of your life with Dave to carry you thru these rough times. Judy Simpson.



Judy Simpson - November 19, 2022 at 10:21 AM

IT

“ IT&D Clinical & Provider Team purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Dave E. Shaver.



IT&D Clinical & Provider Team - November 18, 2022 at 02:57 PM

AL

“ My deepest sympathies to the Shaver family. Ashley, the loss of a parent is hard, and a new normal lies ahead. I wish your family all the support and healing love you will need to navigate this time. No words I have can make this easier, but you have support when you need it.

Alicia Luciani - November 18, 2022 at 12:07 PM

RG

“ *To the family and friends so sorry for your loss
Rest Easy Hero Randy Gumkowski (INPGR)*



Randy Gumkowski - November 16, 2022 at 01:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Dave E. Shaver.*



November 15, 2022 at 08:20 AM

SR

“ My brother was bigger than life. Literally and figuratively! As the youngest , I relied on my big brother to “ save” me from my big sister . The family passed down how I would hide behind my big brother and stick my head around his back and say “ Yeah, Helen Yeah” when we were in a fight. He always gave me the best advice. Dave always had time for me and I always looked up to him as my hero. He supported me in my decision to marry again after my husband died and he talked to both Jack and I quite often over the last 10 years , sending gifts for birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries and even Easter that were both thoughtful and appreciated. We laughed about the aging process over and over. I thought he would live forever. He was my protector against hurt and I felt his love with every phone call . How can this big hole in my life ever be filled ?? My heart goes out to Mary Ann and Ashley for family meant everything to Dave and they were his world . May God comfort you in your new normal. Grief is the hardest job you will ever have . Take it day by day... hour by hour. Love, Susie and Jack

Susie Shaver Rodber - November 15, 2022 at 07:50 AM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dave E. Shaver.



November 14, 2022 at 06:43 PM