



Col. Kenneth George Cassels

December 24, 1926 - December 17, 2025

Kenneth George Cassels

Colonel Kenneth George Cassels, US Army Retired, 98 of Salt Springs, Florida passed away peacefully on 17 December 2025 with family alongside while a resident at the Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home in Panama City, Florida.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his loving wife of 70 years Peggy Sparkman Cassels.

He is survived by his sons Kent Lamar and Scott George and granddaughter Martha Christine.

Kenneth was also preceded in death by his parents Samuel and Alma Cassels and brothers and sisters in law Fred and Marguerite Marchman, Robert and Christine Zimmerman, Perry and Virginia Sparkman and extended family.

Kenneth, born at home in Plant City to parents Samuel and Alma Cassels, was affectionately known simply as 'Buddy'. With a railroad man father, he grew up mainly in Plant City where he rose to Eagle Scout then moved and graduated high school in New Port Richey. After WWII military service he

earned his University of Florida Education BSc then taught industrial arts in Starke. Active duty during the Korean War earned him a Regular Army commission as an Officer of Infantry.

Ken's family lived in Plant City during his time in the Republic of Vietnam. There he commanded the Iron Rangers (1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division). During his combat tours as a Lieutenant Colonel he earned the Silver Star w/OLC, Legion of Merit W/OLC, Bronze Star w/"V" device w/1 OLC, the Air Medal w/10 OLC and a Purple Heart. He also earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge and Ranger Tab. Ken proudly was selected to serve as the Honorary Colonel of the 16th Infantry Regiment from 2011 to 2014 and was a life Member of the 16th Infantry Regiment Association. Ken proudly served our country in war and peace for 32 years rising from Private to Colonel.

After military retirement, Ken returned to teaching special needs kids in Hillsborough County before becoming Manager of the Florida Strawberry Festival for many years.

Visitation begins at 10am EST Saturday, January 10, followed by a

Service at 11am EST at First United Methodist Church, 303 North Evers Street, Plant City.

Burial with full military honors will follow immediately at Oaklawn Cemetery, 109 West Spencer Street, Plant City.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Scouting America...Kenneth crediting them as a formative life influence:

Online at <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/Hv-HJg?vid=1nr0kc>

or checks to Scouting America, Greater Tampa Bay Area Council, 13228 N
Central Avenue, Tampa, FL 33612

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn West Cemetery

1902 North Wheeler Street
Plant City, FL 33563

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Plant City
303 North Evers Street
Plant City, FL 33563
<http://www.firstchurchplantcity.com>

Service

JAN 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Plant City
303 North Evers Street
Plant City, FL 33563
<http://www.firstchurchplantcity.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Col. Kenneth George Cassels



Hopewell Funeral Home - January 13 at 08:25 AM

LC

A great tribute, for a great man.

Lynn Christenson - January 23 at 11:13 PM

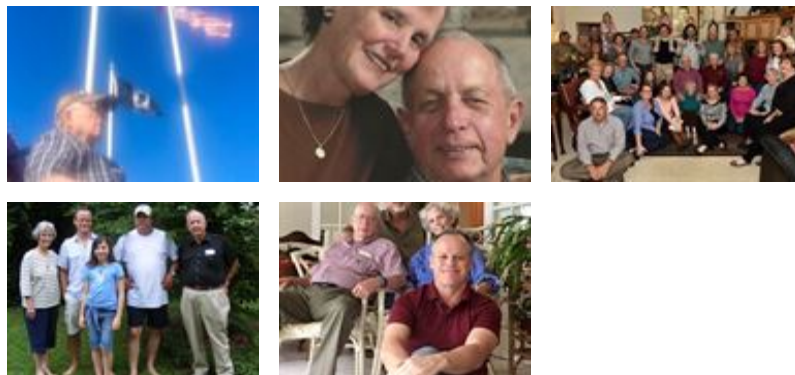
DP

Very impressive career. This is a great country. The best times our parents ever had after WW2 bringing up a family. From Chief engineer David Parker "Tooltime" a friend of Kents. Old school.

David Parker - February 07 at 08:55 PM



“ 45 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hopewell Funeral Home - January 06 at 11:50 AM

KC

“ Graveside: 28.03220° N, 82.12596° W

Kent Cassels - December 23, 2025 at 08:56 PM

KC

“ Cheers Dad, you were a great father, a good man and a righteous warrior...you did your country, your family and yourself proud. Martha and I will miss you...until Valhalla...Bandido Charley 1/16 coin in your pocket to pay the ferryman...

Kent Cassels - December 23, 2025 at 07:46 PM

LC

“ I will always remember my Uncle Ken with the fondest of memories and love. He was the kindest man I've ever known, he was always patient with everyone and had a quiet strength about him. Its one of the reasons he made such a good military leader and why everyone loved and respected him. I rarely saw him get mad or raise his voice, instead you would be met with a smile or offer to help. Goodness just seemed to radiate from him and I'm pretty sure I am not alone in this feeling. He served his country with pride, bravery and competence, I will always be so proud of him. What a live he lived! He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.

Lynn (Sparkman) Christenson - December 23, 2025 at 07:35 PM

KC

You are not alone in that...

Kent Cassels - December 23, 2025 at 07:43 PM