



Colonel Paul F. Lessard USMC Ret.

October 11, 1930 - May 30, 2017

Hampton – Local Marine Corps legend, Colonel Paul F. Lessard, whose service to our nation spanned 35 years, including combat tours in the Korean Conflict and Vietnam, passed peacefully on to his heavenly Father on Wednesday, May 30, 2017 surrounded by his family after courageously battling a long-term illness.

Lessard graduated from Hampton Academy where he played on the undefeated football team that won the State Championship in 1948 with his best buddy, Donnie Walker. He was married to Dorothy Quintal Lessard for 61 years and together they raised 3 children; Paul J. Lessard of High Point, NC, Beth Schottman of Lenexa KS, and Sharon Folan of Austin, TX. He was also a loving and doting grandfather of 7 and a great grandfather of 3. During his retirement years in Hampton, Lessard served in local politics as Town Moderator; in leadership at his church, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal where he ushered and was an officer in the Holy Name Society. COL Lessard was an active member of the Hampton's American Legion Post 35 where he served in leadership and greatly enjoyed the fellowship of his brothers-in-arms.

The Colonel enlisted in 1951 as a PFC and rose up through the ranks, attending Officer Candidate School via the "Meritorious Noncommissioned Officer Program" and later graduated from both the Armored Officers Career Course at Ft. Knox, KY and the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA. Throughout his career, in which he was affectionately known as the "Godfather of the Tank Corps," he was proud to be a hard charging "Mustang" who held a deep commitment to and affection for "his Marines." He served in 19 duty stations and was decorated on 14 occasions including 2 Legion of Merits with Combat "V" for gallantry in combat and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Lessard retired from active service as Colonel of Marines serving as Chief of Staff at Quantico Marine Base where he attended Officer's Candidate School 27 years prior.

Colonel Lessard was a patriot, loving husband, devoted father, loyal son and brother, and a United States Marine through and through, who was, to the very end "Always Faithful."

The Lessard family want to extend their love and thanks to the Staff at Edgewood Centre of Portsmouth for their exceptional care and to his beloved caregivers; Maureen, Renee, Shay, Shirley, Stacy, Mary, Connie, Ronda and especially Meredith "Angel" who so lovingly cared for the Colonel in the last years of his life.

Visitation will be held from 4 - 7 PM on Monday, June 5, 2017 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12 PM on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 in Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 289 Lafayette Road, Hampton. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Burial with military honors will follow in the High Street Cemetery, Hampton. In lieu of flowers the family has requested you send memorial contributions to: American Legion Post 35 c/o: NH, 69 High Street, Hampton, NH 03842 or Compassionate Hospice Care c/o: 180 Orchard Dr., Unit 4, Londonderry, NH 03053.

Cemetery

High Street Cemetery

100 High Street
Hampton, NH,

Events

JUN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

5

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road · , Hampton, NH, US, 03842

JUN **Funeral Mass** 12:00PM

6

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church
289 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - March 22, 2018 at 09:22 AM



“ Sadden by the passing of the good Colonel. We are fellow Mustangs and served together with 2nd Marine Infantry Division in the late '70s (78, 79). I was assigned to Division Personnel and he was on the Division General Staff. I got to meet the Colonel around the turn of the century, when his son in law brought him to meet me at work. We had a great meeting, talking about all the good times at Camp Lejeune! A few week later, his son in law brought me a 2nd Mar Div cap. The Colonel sent ti to him and asked him to give it to me. I still have it; I will wear it today as a symbol of remembrance and respect. God bless you Colonel and may he grant your family peace, lessen their suffering, and bring healing as they go through this period of great loss. Rest in Peace and Semper Fi, my friend!

Juan Alonzo
Capt. USMC, Ret.
Raymore, Missouri

Juan Alonzo - August 23, 2017 at 10:11 AM



“ I have wonderful memories of Col. and Mrs. Lessard from Camp Lejeune as I went to Camp Lejeune High School with Joey, Beth and Sharon. They always welcomed me into their loving home and I have many memories of that time. What a warm and loving family. My deepest sympathy to the entire family. God Bless you all!



Denise M. Waldrop - June 16, 2017 at 11:55 PM



“ James Smith lit a candle in memory of Colonel Paul F. Lessard USMC Ret.



James Smith - June 06, 2017 at 09:26 PM



“ Col. Lessard visited me at Recruiter School in San Diego. I was scheduled to be assigned to his command upon graduation. I had not been paid since arriving and my wife was in dire straits at home, plus I was getting marked for uniform inspections since I couldn't afford the cleaners. Col. Lessard told me to keep a low profile and go "hulldown in defilade". I got paid the next morning.

James - June 06, 2017 at 09:32 PM



“ A caring leader

James - June 06, 2017 at 09:33 PM



“ Bernie Harper lit a candle in memory of Colonel Paul F. Lessard USMC Ret.



Bernie Harper - June 06, 2017 at 01:58 PM



“ The Cornerstone Health Care Foundation Board purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Colonel Paul F. Lessard USMC Ret..



The Cornerstone Health Care Foundation Board - June 05, 2017 at 08:16 PM



“ 177 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - June 05, 2017 at 12:18 PM



“ Wonderful photos of a life well lived; a life of commitment and service to our country and a life filled with love of family. Rest In Peace, Colonel Lessard. Continuing prayers for the family.

Linda Greenlee - June 05, 2017 at 10:49 PM



“ We at American Legion Post 35 in Hampton are saddened to hear of the passing of our friend and comrade, Col Lessard. A long time member of the Legion, he was revered as a career Marine Corp officer with combat tours in the Korea and Vietnam. Although slight in stature, he was a courageous Marine with a big heart, and a great sense of humor. With a well earned reputation for always taking care of his Marines, he was the definition of a true gentleman. He was mentor to all of us.

Col Lessard will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the over 320 officers and members of American Legion Post 35, I would like to offer Dotty, Paul, Beth, Sharon and the rest of the family our deepest condolences.

Berk Bennett
Commander
American Legion Post 35
Hampton

G. Berkley Bennett, Jr - June 04, 2017 at 06:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Colonel Paul F. Lessard USMC Ret..



June 04, 2017 at 12:19 AM



“ Dear Dottie and Family, Please know that we are all praying for you at this difficult time. The Colonel was a very special man, and we know that he is now at peace and with Jesus. In fact, his fellow Marines know that he probably has already taken charge of the Marine Detachment that guards the streets of Heaven! As you know, he made a huge difference in the course of our families life. We firmly believe that God sent the Colonel to Kansas to intercede in our life, and bring us to Hampton. We will forever be thankful for that intercession, and the many blessings it has brought us. Rest in peace sir and Semper Fidelis. Very Respectfully, Major Petruzziello, USMC, (Ret) and Family.

Major Michael Petruzziello - June 03, 2017 at 06:48 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ralph Fatello - June 03, 2017 at 04:40 PM



“ I had the honor and pleasure of meeting Paul & Dottie when I moved to Hampton about 20 years ago. They have been great neighbors and friends who were always 'there' to help anyone - and he has surely been missed from the neighborhood. I'm certain the past few years have been very difficult for Dottie and the Lessard family, and I'm grateful that his suffering is over. RIP, Sir, and thanks...

Michael Stiers - June 03, 2017 at 04:40 PM



“ Kate Caithness lit a candle in memory of Colonel Paul F. Lessard USMC Ret.



Kate Caithness - June 03, 2017 at 11:15 AM



“ My prayers are with Aunt Dotty and all of the family. Uncle Paul will be missed.

Kate - June 03, 2017 at 11:16 AM



“ My name is John Henry Haddock Jr. I did not know Colonel Lessard however, I wish I did! I was born in Ft. Knox Kentucky in 1960 at the Ireland Army Hospital, my father was stationed there after he fought in Korea. My father retired an E-9 after 27 years in the Army and survived three wars and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. I just needed to write to offer all of Col. Lessard's family and friends my condolences from my family. God Bless you all and God Bless this great man!

Respectfully,
John H. Haddock Jr. Newmarket, NH

John Haddock - June 02, 2017 at 09:00 AM



“ My condolences Dot and your family. What a great man the Colonel. was. We met as you both volunteered for the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society at the Shipyard. Paul worked tirelessly to assist Marine and Navy Families to ensure they were fed, warm and loved. For years every week a young family came in thinking there was no hope or help for them to get food, buy oil, or gas and Paul made sure they knew there was hope and understanding and help. He was the best of the best ! Rest in peace Colonel your are a true American Hero and a blessing to us all who knew you,

Mary Shults

Mary Shults - June 02, 2017 at 07:29 AM



“ Roger P. Hammond lit a candle in memory of Colonel Paul F. Lessard USMC Ret.



Roger P. Hammond - June 01, 2017 at 10:39 PM



“ A beloved neighbour and friend, who will always live in our hearts

Monica DallaCosta - June 01, 2017 at 12:57 PM



“ I grew up at Hampton Beach during our school years and remember Paul my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. May God Bless! Phyllis Stickney Hefler Springfield, Ohio

Phyllis Stickney Hefler - June 01, 2017 at 04:39 AM



“ I remember meeting Colonel Lessard and his wife for the first time. It was 1976 and my husband had just been transferred to Fort Knox, KY. We were out in town and happened to park next to their car. When the Colonel came out of the store and noticed our NH plates, he struck up a conversation. Within seconds, we discovered that we were both from the same hometown. Such a memorable start to a great friendship. During our years at Fort Knox, my husband thoroughly enjoyed working with Colonel Lessard. He was a wonderful person, and always a very proud and dedicated Marine. He will be missed.

Kathy and Jim Dyer - May 31, 2017 at 10:41 PM



“ I met Paul through the visiting nurses he was a wonderful man I really enjoyed taking care of him.my prayers are with you all

Eugenia Critchett - June 01, 2017 at 07:05 AM



“ Colonel,
I never got a chance to thank you in person when you assisted me with my VA rating problem a few years back. I understand that you were bed-ridden and not feeling well at all, but you jumped out of bed with passion and selflessness to aid another Marine. I'm eternally grateful for the assistance and only hope that I can pay it forward to other Marines. The brotherhood lives on, as will your legacy, and I wish you the best in your next duty station in the heavens, Sir.

My deepest sympathy to the Lessard family...the Colonel will be sadly missed by all those who've worn/wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

Semper Fidelis,
SSgt Ian LeJeune USMC (Ret)

SSgt LeJeune USMC (Ret) - May 31, 2017 at 08:02 PM



“ My deepest sympathy on the Colonel's passing. I sincerely enjoyed our visit's at your home over the years. May God be with you at this time of sorrow.

Jerry Sterritt
Newport Richey, Fl.

Jerry Sterritt - May 31, 2017 at 08:01 PM



“ Colonel Lessard will always be remembered with love and respect. Hampton has lost a wonderful man. When I started working elections Colonel Lessard was the Moderator. We had many good times even 'tho we worked hard those days and nights. To Mrs. Lessard I send you my deepest sympathy. Thank you for sharing such a wonderful man with all of us. May he rest in peace.

Debbie Noyes - May 31, 2017 at 07:50 PM



“ Tracy Burke lit a candle in memory of Colonel Paul F. Lessard USMC Ret.



Tracy Burke - May 31, 2017 at 05:52 PM



“ Hampton has lost a true Icon . Mike & I were proud to know such a wonderful man . Our deepest sympathy to the family

Sharron Plouffe - May 31, 2017 at 04:26 PM



“ Dotty, our sincere sympathies to you and your family at this difficult time. All of us at the Hampton Town Clerk's Office recognize that Paul was a true gentleman and undoubtedly loved the Town of Hampton. We share in your loss and please know that Hampton will never be the same without him. Jane Cypher & Staff

Jane Cypher - May 31, 2017 at 03:58 PM



“ Colonel,

It was an honor and a privilege to stand with you at so many of our Memorial Day Observances, Veteran's Day Services, and of course, our beloved Corps birthday gatherings. You lived a rich and fulfilling life, and have done more for our country, than most people will ever think about.

The Marine Corps has lost another legend, but heaven, has received another Warrior Angel. Rest in Peace Colonel, you've earned it.

Semper Fi Sir, say hello to George for me.

Ralph G. Fatello

Ralph G. Fatello - May 31, 2017 at 03:15 PM



“ What a wonderful neighbor and family man we had the privilege of knowing for almost 30 years. I will always remember his smile and his kindness and his love for his country that he served so faithfully. He is deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family at this sad time. May he rest in peace.

Judi Park - May 31, 2017 at 01:20 PM



“ I was blessed to grow up in the Col. and Dotty's neighborhood. What wonderful people. I'll never forget the excitement he showed when he met my first child for the first time. Harrison loved playing ball with you in your garage. Thank you for your service and devotion to our country, your love of family, great leadership, and just for being you. Love and blessings to the whole family. Betsy -

Elizabeth Cote - May 31, 2017 at 08:44 PM



“ Dear Dotty and family, Your loss is heaven's gain. And what a gain it is. I cannot tell you anything about Colonel Lessard that you do not already know, only share my memories with you. While helping students arrange Veterans and Memorial Day Assemblies at Hampton Academy, I had the honor of meeting with, listening to, and learning from Paul. His example of the gentleman warrior was so perfect for "my" students. His message to Hampton's young people always rang of truth, of courage, and of profound humility. He had the strength of character to be unafraid to shed tears as he spoke of his love for his men. For 500 middle school children to be silent as he choked back tears was a sign of the respect he commanded by his presence. His unwavering love of family, God, and country surpassed the norm. He worked and served to make us all better people, better Americans. Partisanship had no place in his conversation, at least when we spoke. The most treasured presentation given at my retirement is the lithograph of Iwo Jima he gave me. He will always be remembered as an exemplar of all that is right with the world. God Bless you all for the support and love that helped shape him. May God embrace him in His loving arms.

Love, Sheila

Sheila Nudd - June 05, 2017 at 09:17 AM



“ My condolences to the Lessard Family. I met then LtCol Lessard as a young 2Lt reporting in to Armor School. It was an honor to have served, however briefly, under this man's guidance and direction. Fair winds and following seas sir. Bravo Zulu.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Galdis

LtCol USMC (Ret.)

Joe Galdis - August 21, 2017 at 02:07 PM