



Lt. Col. Randy Heyward

MAR 15, 1953 - SEP 6, 2020



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MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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Lt. Col. Randy Heyward

MAR 15, 1953 - SEP 6, 2020

On March 15, 1953, in Sumter, South Carolina, Viola Moses Heyward and George W. Heyward were happy to welcome a son to their family. His parents were astonished to learn that they were doubly blessed and were now the parents of twin boys. Randy Ronard Heyward was the youngest of the twins. His parents along with his sister, Shirley Heyward Gray and Gloria E Heyward preceded him in death.

Colonel Heyward grew up in Sumter, South Carolina surrounded by supportive, caring and very decent family and neighbors. He was the son of school teachers and grandson of Paul Moses and Mamie Dwyer Moses and of Julian Henry Heyward, Sr. and Lue Hutlin Heyward. He was always a pleasant child, popular with his family and other people in his life.

Having been born shortly after World War II, he was surrounded and influenced by men of military experience. Among the many he admired were his uncles, Raymond Moses (Navy), James O. Heyward, Sr (Army), Robert Culbreath (Air Force), Leonard Lewis (Air Force), Julian Heyward, Jr. (Army) and Samuel Heyward (Army).

As he sometimes reminded family members later in life, by the age of six, he had already decided he wanted a career in the military. So, quite naturally, ROTC was an integral part of his college experience. In addition to ROTC, Colonel Heyward was a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. After graduating from South Carolina State University, Randy was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

However, before reporting to his first duty assignment, he married the love of his life and college sweetheart, Cynthia Thomas Heyward. He discovered what true happiness was when they were blessed with three wonderful children, Randy R Heyward, Jr., Crystal Denise Heyward and Ryan Timothy Heyward. Anyone who talked with the Colonel (as his wife affectionately called him) for a minute, knew how proud he was of his granddaughter, Reyana Heyward.



Obituary

Lt. Col. Randy Heyward

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Randy served honorably in the military for many years. His career began as a 2nd Lt at Headquarters 504 infantry battalion, Fort Bragg, NC. He was promoted to 1st LT as a valuable member of the Devil Brigade, 82 Airborne Division. After his promotion to Captain, Randy Heyward was assigned to US Military Personnel Center in Korea. Later he served as Company Commander of HHC 1st/31st Infantry, APO San Francisco. On July 1, 1985, Randy Heyward was promoted to Major and proceeded to a permanent change of station, United States Army Special Operations, Fort Bragg, N.C. Randy Heyward was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, October 18, 1990 while commanding the 528th Support Battalion (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC. On February 16, 1991 he was reassigned to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and he returned to Fort Bragg May 1991.

Over his vast career, from 1978-1996, Colonel Heyward received many honors, awards and medals for his outstanding service as he advanced through the ranks from Second Lieutenant, to First Lieutenant to Captain, to Major and finally Lieutenant Colonel at a rapid speed very uncommon in the military. Some of the awards, medals and recognition he received were: The Army Commendation Medal, The Army Commendation Medal First Oak Leaf Medal, Infantry, U.S. Army, August 1983, Achievement Medal, January 1984, Meritorious Service Medal, October 1986 and 1989, Army Achievement Medal 1988, The Bronze Star Medal, 1991 and the Meritorious Service Medal, 1994.

Colonel Heyward retired from active duty in 1996. He moved to Memphis, Tennessee and became the ROTC instructor for Shelby County Schools and later the Director of the Army ROTC. He retired from this position May 2017.

He leaves to laugh, love and cherish his memory those who brought so much joy to his life, his loving wife, Cynthia Thomas Heyward, his daughter Crystal D Heyward, two sons, Randy R Heyward, Jr and Ryan Timothy Heyward, his granddaughter, Reyana Heyward, one brother, W Rowland Heyward, three nieces, Samantha Gray Mickens (Tony), Karen Hubbard, Kenya Hubbard, two nephews, Charlie Tucker, and Justin Tucker, one aunt, Florence Moses Culbreath (Robert), one uncle, James O Heyward (Col Ret) (Willie Mae), Henry Heyward, Jr., a step mother, Inez Simon Heyward, his mother in law, Esther Thomas, two sister in laws, Gloria Hubbard, and Felecia Tucker (Ivory), brother in law, Charles Timothy Thomas and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends.

To view the service of Lt. Col. Randy Heyward. Please click the link below.

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/37183>



Events

Lt. Col. Randy Heyward

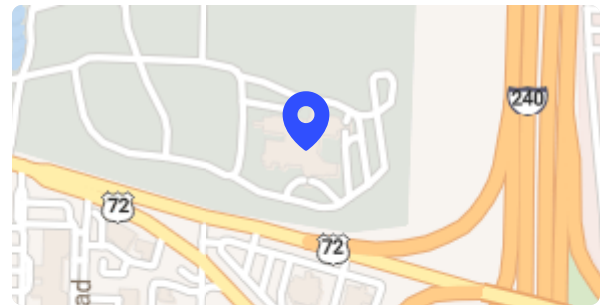
MAR 15, 1953 - SEP 6, 2020

Visitation

 **Thursday**, September 17, 2020

 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home**
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119

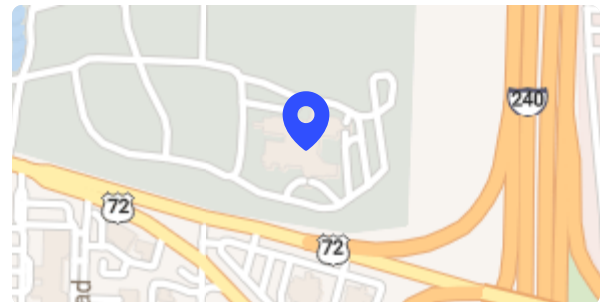


Funeral Service


 **Friday**, September 18, 2020

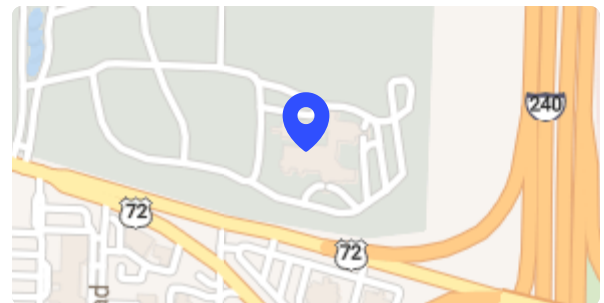
 10:00 AM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home**
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119



Cemetery Details

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery**
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119





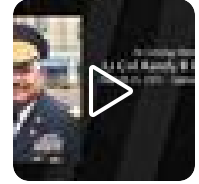
Tribute Wall

Lt. Col. Randy Heyward

MAR 15, 1953 - SEP 6, 2020



Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a **Video**.



September 17 at 8:07 AM



Jan Wertz, Moww posted:

The Colonel worked hard for the youth of this area. Responsible for the local high schools ROTC programs, he showed the youth of this area opportunities they never dreamed they had, and helped to set them on the right path to achieve their potential. He changed many lives for the better. Far better. The world is poorer him leaving it, but richer for the time he spent in it. I hope his wife checks his e-mails as I have sent her some ideas she may want to consider for ways his legacy might continue to go forward.

October 19 at 3:14 AM



Richard B. Corley Sr. posted:

My deepest condolences to Cynthia, the children, and family. Randy and I studied and trained together and were active members of Pershing Rifles and Scabbard & Blade while at SCSU. We were both commissioned as Army Officers in 1974 and later shared good times again while serving in Germany during the early 1980's. I have so many fond memories of our bond. It is my prayer that all of your family finds strength, peace, and a renewed sense of life purpose and direction. Richard B. Corley Sr. Major (RET) USASCSU, Class of 1974

September 23 at 6:34 AM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Heyward family.



September 20 at 7:34 AM



Tribute Wall

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Nathaniel Richburg posted:

Randy, a life long friend who was an inspiration in my life. Randy was a first in many areas of his life. Praise God for his life, friendship, brotherly love and his great jokes. Ingrid and myself, both being high school classmates will miss him and will be praying for the comfort of his family. Nate and Ingrid Richburg

September 18 at 11:57 AM



Crystal Heyward September 18 at 8:07 PM

Thank you so much. He spoke very highly of you when he FINALLY joined Facebook! Lol. Thank you for sharing these memories. -Crystal Heyward



Kiara Brown sent a virtual gift in honor of Randy.



September 17 at 6:35 PM



Nolen Bivens, Brig Gen, Usa (Ret) posted:

I shall never forget how Randy helped me make my fraternity shield during pledging - just like the true brother he was! It was his leadership model as our ROTC Cadet Brigade Commander that I later emulated in that role ... To Cynthia and the entire family, it is my prayer that "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." With deepest sympathy. He will be missed...General Nolen Bivens, Brig Gen., US Army (Ret)

September 17 at 6:32 PM



Gregory Morrison lit a candle in honor of Randy.

I am a member of SCSC class of 1982 and I was the ROTC Cadet Brigade Commander that year. Cpt Heyward was a mentor, friend and confidant who guided me and others through the program. I really adored Randy. And I'm very sorry to learn of his loss. My deepest sympathies to his family.



September 17 at 3:26 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant to the Heyward family.



September 17 at 1:46 PM



Pastor Heyward Evans, Sr. lit a candle in honor of Randy.

I am sorry to hear about the passing of Lt. Col. Randy Heyward. I got to know him at South Carolina State University. He became a member of the military fraternity, Scabbard & Blade. He was awarded the first scholarship given by the fraternity. I was a senior at state and when I graduated, I never knew what happened to him. May he rest in peace and the family know he was loved by many that knew him personally at South Carolina State University.



September 17 at 12:42 PM



Sabrina Budden September 17 at 4:54 PM

Our hearts were heavy as we learned of the passing of our beloved nephew and cousin. Memories came rushing to mind of my mom chauffeuring him and Cynthia on their first date, of him babysitting Gino and I when we were little kids and memories of being in their beautiful wedding so long ago. When we got together for lunch in Sumter last summer you still did what you did so well - made us all laugh. Take your rest sweet nephew and cousin your life of family and service speaks for itself. Love always, The Culbreath, Budden and Lewis Families



Denise York lit a candle in honor of Randy.

We were so sorry to hear of the passing of Ronard. Cynthia I know your love story will continue, even though you are parted. Crystal, Randy, and Ryan We have such precious childhood memories of your dad. We grew up on Harvin street together! If they weren't at our house we would be at your grandma's house. I know you will miss him so much. Rowland, our siblings carry a piece of our heart in theirs. You, Ronard and Albert spent a lot of time together. Thinking of you. Love, Mary Ann Miller Smith - 803-464-0328 Margie Miller Denise M. York



September 17 at 9:17 AM



Thurgood White posted:

T.E. White lit a candle in memory of Randy Heyward. Fraternally, '06!!

September 17 at 6:16 AM



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Augustus L. Owens, II posted:

Angela and I send our deepest condolences to the Heyward family. As a brand new freshman and ROTC cadet in the South Carolina State Army ROTC program in the early 80's, Randy Heyward took me and other cadets under his wing and provided guidance and mentorship throughout our Army careers. He has helped shape the lives of so many. A true "Soldier for Life", may he rest in peace. I am standing at attention now and rendering a final salute! Augustus L. Owens, II, Colonel, USA (Retired) South Carolina State University, 1984

September 16 at 6:23 AM



James Graham posted:

Gloria and I, would like to express our sincere condolences to the Heyward family. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Randy, but we are grateful to God for His provisions of the gift of eternal life; for we believe that Randy has left the land of the dying and has gone on to the land of the living. Being from the south-side of Sumter SC, Randy and I knew each other since we were boys in elementary school. I was blessed to have been encouraged by Randy to take Jr ROTC, go to SC State College, enroll in ROTC, pledge Pershing Rifles and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and pursue a military career. He had a positive impact on our family, but he also impacted many other people. In my view he was always a giant of a man with impeccable integrity. Deuteronomy 29:29 says in part, "... the secret things belong to the Lord thy God but the things revealed belong to us and our children forever." We don't know why God has chosen to bring Randy home now. This will remain one of God's secrets. But God has revealed to us, without a doubt, that He works for the good of those who love Him. In a world full of devastation and crime, I'm reminded of the passage in Isaiah 57:1b -2 which says that, "The righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace as they lie in death." I believe that Randy R Heyward is now at peace and has been spared the many challenges, trials and tribulations of this world; for he is at home with the Lord. Our sincere prayers and thoughts are with you during this period of bereavement. James Graham

September 15 at 11:33 AM



Saint Clair Amaker lit a candle in honor of Randy.



September 15 at 6:50 AM



Tribute Wall

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Beryle Rice Browman lit a candle in honor of Randy.



September 14 at 5:05 PM



Bioll Reese lit a candle in honor of Randy.



September 14 at 7:12 AM



Bioll Reese posted:

I can't believe that my friend and comrade has transitioned to be with the Lord.. I want to extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to Cyndi and the girls.. Randy "is" one of my most beloved and cherished "friends"... He will be missed by his ROTC Instructor "running mate, Bill Reese... There is no one that can replace this "True Friend" of mine.. My prayers and well-wishes are with you Cynthia and family.. We have lost one of the major spokes in our wheel that cannot and will not be replaced.. You know that I am with you both now and forever more. I am here for you family... I am at billreese13@verizon.net and (301) 675-1402... Please contact me.. I love you and always will.. May God continue to Bless you all and May He hold "my Friend and your husband and father" close to his breast both now and forever more...With My Love Always, Bill Reese

September 14 at 7:11 AM



Douglas Key September 14 at 6:34 PM

My heart felt condolences go out to you and your family.Randy was a rare treasure...a true friend,, honest, kind, considerate of others, selfless, the epitome of an Army Officer, and totally devoted to his family. I will forever cherish my many fond memories of Randy.Randy lived in such a manner that now that his life on earth is done, his works will speak for him.May God be with you and comfort you at this hour of bereavement and Always!Sincerely,Doug Key



Ervin Pearson posted:

Ervin and Patricia (Pat) Pearson would like to send their sincere sympathy to the family of a lifelong childhood, college and professional friend. We would love to speak with you soon and can be contacted at 267-207-1973.

September 14 at 5:03 AM



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KD

Kathy Desjarlais posted:

Sympathies are extended to Randy's friends and loved ones from the Memphis Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.....

September 11 at 6:23 AM

WW

Wonda Maple Williams September 17 at 6:21 PM

Our Heartfelt Prayers and Condolences are being submitted unto the Heyward Family. I am a Sumter, South Carolina Native. Randy and I (And a few Others) were on The Lincoln High School Band/As Well As The Sumter High School Band Together. We also attended South Carolina State University. (SCSU)...And were Commissioned upon Graduation. (ARMY) I learned of Randy's Transition on this date....For I still read The Sumter Daily Item. When I reached out to another Comrade....He shared this link with Me. May..."OUR FATHER GOD"...surround The Heyward Family with..."HIS"...Blessed Assurances in..."JESUS"...Name, Amen. Blessings & Peace, ~wmw~ (Wonda Maple Williams) SCSU '77... DAV- Stone Mountain, Georgia

FP

Fred F Persechini September 16 at 6:54 PM

Heartfelt sorrow and sympathy to all of Randy's family and friends from all of his companions at the Memphis Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW).

HJ

Henry Jenkins September 16 at 3:59 PM

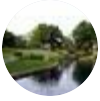
Sympathy to Randy's family and friends. I met him at South Carolina State University in the early 1970's. Always a leader. He will be missed. Henry Jenkins & Family P/R



Media

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Memorial Park Funeral Home And Cemetery shared a **Video**.

September 17 at 8:07 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Randy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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