



Lt. Col. Randy Heyward

March 15, 1953 - September 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.

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>

Cemetery

Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery

5668 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, TN, 38119

Events

SEP 17 Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM

Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

SEP 18 Funeral Service 10:00AM

Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery - September 17, 2020 at 01:07 PM



“ 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.

Jan Wertz, MOWW - October 19, 2020 at 08:14 AM



“ 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) USA
SCSU, Class of 1974

Richard B. Corley Sr. - September 23, 2020 at 11:34 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. Randy Heyward.



September 20, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ 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

Nathaniel Richburg - September 18, 2020 at 04:57 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

Crystal - September 19, 2020 at 01:07 AM



“ Kiara Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Lt. Col. Randy Heyward



Kiara Brown - September 17, 2020 at 11:35 PM



“ 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)

Nolen Bivens, Brig Gen, USA (ret) - September 17, 2020 at 11:32 PM



“ 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.



Gregory morrison - September 17, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Randy Heyward.



September 17, 2020 at 06:46 PM



“ 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.



Pastor Heyward Evans, Sr. - September 17, 2020 at 05:42 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

Sabrina Budden - September 17, 2020 at 09:54 PM



“ 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



Denise York - September 17, 2020 at 02:17 PM



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

Thurgood White - September 17, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ 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

Augustus L. Owens, II - September 16, 2020 at 11:23 AM



“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 JrROTC, 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

James Graham - September 15, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“Saint Clair Amaker lit a candle in memory of Lt. Col. Randy Heyward



Saint Clair Amaker - September 15, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ Beryle Rice Browman lit a candle in memory of Lt. Col. Randy Heyward



Beryle Rice Browman - September 14, 2020 at 10:05 PM



“ Bioll Reese lit a candle in memory of Lt. Col. Randy Heyward



Bioll Reese - September 14, 2020 at 12:12 PM



“ 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

Bill Reese - September 14, 2020 at 12:11 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

Douglas Key - September 14, 2020 at 11:34 PM



“ 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.

Ervin Pearson - September 14, 2020 at 10:03 AM



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

Kathy Desjarlais - September 11, 2020 at 11:23 AM



“ 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

Henry Jenkins - September 16, 2020 at 08:59 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).

Fred F Persechini - September 16, 2020 at 11:54 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

Wonda Maple Williams - September 17, 2020 at 11:21 PM