



Brigadier General (retired) Edwin Lyle Kennedy

August 6, 1927 - January 11, 2017

Brigadier General (retired) Edwin Lyle Kennedy was born on August 6, 1927, in Waynesboro, Mississippi to Enoch and Eddy (Huggins) Kennedy. His early childhood was spent in Waynesboro but during the Great Depression his father's job as a State Highway Engineer took them to several locations throughout the state. In 1940, the family settled in Gulfport, Mississippi where BrigGen Kennedy attended high school through the 11th grade. After his father was commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers during WWII, BrigGen Kennedy completed his high school education at Marion Military Institute. In 1945, BrigGen Kennedy served in the US Navy until he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Upon graduating from West Point in 1950, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and sent to Korea as a platoon leader in the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. For his service in Korea, Lt Kennedy was awarded two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars (with "Valor" device), and a Purple Heart Medal among other awards.

Returning stateside in 1951, Lt Kennedy was first stationed at Fort Jackson, SC where he met his future wife, Dolly Dean Beard. Their military travels took them to assignments around the world, first of which was Ankara Turkey, where the couple's first two children, Edwin Jr and Catherine were born. Some years later while stationed at West Point, their third child, David, was born. In 1965, he was promoted to Lt Colonel and was selected for the British Joint Services Staff College where, upon graduating, commanded an infantry battalion in the US Berlin Brigade. After his tour in Berlin, Lt Col Kennedy was selected for the US War College at Carlisle, PA. From there, Lt Col Kennedy served an extended tour of duty in Vietnam where he commanded the largest Army combat brigade, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and was subsequently promoted to colonel. He returned to the US to command the 197th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning GA followed by an assignment to serve in the Army's Senate Liaison Office in Washington, DC.

It was during his tenure as a Senate Liaison Officer that Col. Kennedy was promoted to Brigadier General. BrigGen Kennedy was then assigned as an assistant division

commander of the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. After his two year assignment, he went on to Camp Zama, Japan for his final military service as Chief of Staff, US Army Japan for three years. At the conclusion of his military service he had been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (highest peacetime military award), two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Silver Stars, seven Bronze Stars (Valor), and a Purple Heart Medal.

After 30 years of distinguished military service, BrigGen and Mrs Kennedy moved to Sarasota in 1979 where BrigGen Kennedy worked as the Vice President of Construction for a local development company. He continued to enjoy his hobby from childhood, fishing, as well as playing golf.

In 2009, BrigGen Kennedy was awarded the Order of St Maurice for his outstanding contributions to the Army's Infantry Branch by General David Petraeus.

Throughout his career as a military officer, BrigGen Kennedy never lost sight of the most important part of his life, his family. He adored Dolly and was a devoted father to his children providing them a unique opportunity to travel the world.

Until his passing, BrigGen Kennedy lived in the Oaks with his devoted son, golfing companion, and avid sports fan, David. It is great comfort to his family knowing that BrigGen Kennedy has joined his wife Dolly, and their second child, Catherine, in Heaven. Edwin is survived by his two sons, LtCol (Ret) Edwin L. Kennedy (Christine) of New Market, Alabama and David B. Kennedy of Osprey, FL, grandsons, Justin, David, and Geoffrey and their children, his youngest brother, Dr William R. Kennedy (Susan) of Sarasota, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be conducted in Sarasota at the Toale Brothers Funeral Home, Gulf Gate Chapel, Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. with viewing and visitation at 1:30 p.m. Pastor Eric Want of Freedom Christian Church will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Freedom Christian Church of Sarasota, 4835 Beneva Road, Sarasota, Florida 34233; Methodist Children's Homes, Morrow Administrative Center Post Office Box 66 Clinton, Mississippi 39060-0066; The Humane Society of Sarasota County, 2331 15th Street Sarasota, Florida 34237.

Tribute Wall



“ BG (Ret.) Edwin L. Kennedy

I didn't have the honor to meet such a fine General Officer and Gentleman, however his brilliance, compassion, and love for family and country is certainly rivaled and immortalized through his son Edwin, Jr. (Ed). I did have the honor and privilege to know Ed and his family in and outside the military. His brilliance and compassion embraced everyone he met, as an Infantry Officer (like his father), Professor (Passion for Military History), and Friend. Ed gave me a bigger than life opportunity and taught me how to ride horses, which ended up being a career for me as a Hunter/Jumper. I want to thank General Kennedy not only for his service, but for his family that emulates the character and compassion that inspires greatness in the hearts and minds that his family touches.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defender in battle, take General Kennedy under your wing in heaven and watch over his family that inspires good in the hearts of man. Thank you, General Kennedy! And thank you, Ed!

Sincerely, Ed Schmidt

May 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Kennedy Family:

In writing a book about the Vietnam War, I had the privilege of interviewing General Kennedy. He was kind, patient, informative, and a true gentleman. Although a general, his heart always lay with his men. "The best job in the army is an infantry platoon leader," he told me, referring to his experiences in the Korean War. America owes General Kennedy and men like him, from privates to four-stars, our love and gratitude. My wife, Cindy, joins me in condolences to all in the Kennedy family, especially his fine son, Ed.

Gary Ford - January 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM