



## Max Lee Waldrop

November 25, 1929 - October 28, 2014

Lieutenant Colonel Max Lee Waldrop, age 84, of Aiken, South Carolina passed away peacefully into the arms of his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 surrounded by his loving family. A graveside service will be held Saturday, November 1, 2014 at Noon in the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery with Brother Steve Freeman officiating. Burial will follow with Max Waldrop, Jr., Gary Tate, Kyle Tate, Chad Tate, Sonny Hill, Tom Austin and Ed Lopez serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held at the Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield on Saturday morning from 9-11am.

Colonel Waldrop was born November 25, 1929 in the Randolph Community of Pontotoc County, Mississippi. On May 24, 1953 he married Elizabeth Ann Robinson at Grenada, MS. His priorities in life were his passion for Christ, his family, his country, French Camp, helping others in need and golf. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, a good friend of many people and a true gentleman with an amazing smile.

Colonel Waldrop grew up in Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi and attended Central High School graduating with the "49'er Class" where he starred as a football running back. He attended the University of Mississippi from 1949-1953 and was commissioned a United States Army 2nd Lieutenant. Max later earned a Master's Degree in Education in 1965 while at Ole Miss.

As an Infantry Officer he served with distinction at all levels of staff and command assignments. His assumption of command of the 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in 1968 was the highlight of

his career. He was extremely proud and protective of the men who served with him and led his commands with immense courage, bravery, and compassion. While in Vietnam he was awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with OLC, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal with 2nd OLC and V device, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with 29 OLC, Army Commendation Medal with 2nd OLC and V device and Purple Heart. Max served in Austria, Germany, South Korea, South Vietnam, Arizona, Kansas, Georgia and Mississippi. He earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, and Senior Parachutist Badge along with other various awards and decorations.

He retired from the U.S. Army in May 1975 and was immediately hired by the University of Mississippi as a Director responsible for creating the first "Ole Miss Book Store". He retired from the University in 1991. His next full time assignment was playing 18 holes of golf Monday through Friday until the fall of 2011. He was a world traveler and explorer along with his wife. They made trips throughout Europe, Thailand, Hong Kong, China, Argentina, Peru, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Egypt, Nepal, India and Greece along with many other countries and the continental United States.

He was an avid lifetime fan of Ole Miss Athletics, a Scottish Rite and Shriner, a life member of the National Infantry Association, A Phi Kappa Alpha Hall of Fame member, Ole Miss ROTC Hall of Fame member, an Honorary Commander General of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, a Kentucky Colonel, and a distinguished member of many other organizations.

In addition to his wife Colonel Waldrop is survived by his son, Max Lee (Sheila) Waldrop, Jr.; daughters, Nancy Ann Waldrop and Mary Alice Waldrop; sister, Imogene Ferguson; grandchildren, Emily Dye, Amy Hughes and Kimberly (Sonny) Hill; and great-grandchild, Molly Hughes.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to French Camp in support of the Colonel Max Waldrop Pavilion. For details please go to [www.frenchcamp.org](http://www.frenchcamp.org). Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements. AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME- 509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD,

TN (615) 384-1000

# Tribute Wall

WO

“ Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Max's wife and family on his passing. While I never met Max I had reason to be in contact with him by email over an extended period some years back. A family member of mine served in Max's command in Vietnam (2 - 18 Infantry 1 ID), until he was killed in action in May 1968. Max took the time to document for me and Edmonds family the details of his time and service in Vietnam up to and including the action in which he died. He also nominated Edmond as a distinguished member of the 18th Regt and sent on the certificates on to us here in Ireland. We still have the personal hand written letter Max wrote to Edmonds wife after his death. REST IN PEACE

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**Walter O'Shea** - November 05, 2014 at 03:01 PM

GH

“ I respected him as my boss and loved him as a friend. He taught me so much. Asking God to comfort his family at this time and give them peace in the days to follow.

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**Gloria Harmon** - November 01, 2014 at 12:12 PM

SA

“ Max, Praying for peace and comfort for you all. My sincere condolences.

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**Suzanne Allen** - November 01, 2014 at 09:45 AM

PG

“ I am sorry for your loss, but look forward to seeing him again one day. He was very good to me while I worked at the bookstore and always called me Ray Preston rather than Preston Ray because my grandfather was Preston Waldrop. I can not think of anyone I have ever had more respect for.

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**Preston Ray Garrett** - October 31, 2014 at 04:41 PM

PJ

“ Deepest condolences to Mary, Ann, Nancy and the entire family. It was a pleasure to know Max, a distinguished southern gentleman. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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**Patricia T James** - October 31, 2014 at 04:23 PM

GF

“ Just wanted to offer our condolences to the family members. George was in the 1st Inf. 2/18th during 6/66 -6/67 in Vietnam. I am not sure if I ever met your dad, but I am sure he was a wonderful person.

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**George & Sandy Feamster** - October 31, 2014 at 04:06 PM

NH

“ Praying for the family....Colonel was one of a kind...I worked with him when he was Director of the Ole Miss Bookstore. He taught me many things during the 5 years we worked together. We traveled to all the away football games which was always an adventure and certainly a learning experience. The talks on the long ride back to Oxford after the games (he didn't want to spend University money for hotel rooms or even 5.00 to park anywhere close to the stadiums) never were boring, he always had an opinion and could back them up with facts... Yes the world lost a great one and heaven gained an angel.. Thank you Colonel for everything you taught me and especially the patience you had when we played golf. HAHA...Everybody that knew you can relate to how much effort that took on your part... I still love to play golf but not at daybreak! ... I love you to the moon and back... RIP!

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**Nancy Gillespie Houser** - October 31, 2014 at 03:42 PM

SG

“ I truly loved working for the Colonel at the Ole Miss Bookstore. He was the best boss ever. He will be missed by all. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. May God comfort you during this time.

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**Shawn Gardner** - October 31, 2014 at 03:04 PM

JH

“ My deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Waldrop family. LTC Waldrop was a significant influence to me while in the ROTC program at Ole Miss 1962-66. He will always be remembered for his integrity and helpfulness to others.

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**James O. Hawkins** - October 31, 2014 at 10:27 AM