



## Michael Ward

April 15, 1937 - July 9, 2023

Colonel Michael Ward, US Army, Retired

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Colonel Michael Ward, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who passed away on the afternoon of July 9, 2023.

He was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on April 15, 1937, and was the son of Agnes Hemovich Gizdavich and Dr. Needham Ward.

An engineer by training, he earned degrees from Oregon State University and Texas A&M University before beginning a distinguished military career with the US Army Corps of Engineers. During his career, he served in Vietnam and has received several medals and decorations, including The Legion of Merit and The Bronze Star Medal. He received senior leadership military education from the Army War College in Carlisle, PA. He retired from the United States Army in 1991.

He was very happily married for 43 years to the love of his life, Beatrice Kay Ward of New Castle, IN. They lived in the Washington DC area, Georgia, Germany, Hawaii, and Oregon, finally settling in New Castle to be closer to family. His family and friends will remember him as very caring, generous, highly intelligent, and having a great sense of humor.

He is survived by his children, GERALDYN WARD, Michelle Kudrin, Joni Miller, Ruth DiPietro, and Eric Longworth; grandchildren, Isabella Kudrin, Jason Miller, Jessica Cox, Justin Miller, Emily Goerdt; great-grandchildren, Kordia Miller, Ashli Cox, Keagan Cox, Ellaina Miller, Vivian Miller, Rigden Miller, Rexton Miller, Layla Mae Goerdt and Sophie Lynne Goerdt; sister, Sue Lee, and brothers, Marc Ward, Dr. Needham Ward, and Josh Gizdavich.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Beatrice Kay Ward, his parents, and his sister, Ann Pew.

Funeral services will be held for family and close friends at Sproles Family Funeral Home on Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 2:00 pm with Father John Hall officiating. Friends may call from 1:00 pm until the time of service. Burial will follow at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors rendered.

You may send the family a personal condolence, and more information can be found at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

Memorial contributions may be offered to the Harold R. Griffin Henry County Sheriff's Youth Camp by Clicking Here (<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/online-payments-and-donations/>) and also to Rock Steady Boxing by Clicking Here (<https://rocksteadyboxing.org/donate/>) for fighting back against Parkinson's.

Flower arrangements can be made at The Flower Studio (<https://www.theflowerstudionc.com/>) in New Castle.

The Sproles family and staff are deeply honored to serve the family of Colonel Michael Ward.



# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Avenue  
Fort Meyer, VA 22211

# Previous Events

## Time of Greeting

JUL 15. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

## Funeral Service

JUL 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
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# Tribute Wall

NB

“ *Sending our love, prayers and condolences. -Josh Gizdavich & Nancy Baty*

Nancy Baty - July 17, 2023 at 05:43 PM

TS

“ *1 file added to the album Michael Ward*



Tom Sproles - July 14, 2023 at 03:15 PM

FT

“ *RIP Mike.*



Frank Titus - July 14, 2023 at 02:21 PM

JA

“ *Dear Gerri and Michelle, I never had the opportunity to meet you but I knew your parents well. I shall miss our phone calls and discussions on the world. We always disagreed and then laughed about it. My mom and dad always enjoyed Mike and Bea's visits to Reno and I always enjoyed my visits to them. My heart goes out to you all, you have my deepest condolences and all my love. Your cousin, Julie*

julie g aubuchon - July 14, 2023 at 10:49 AM

SP

“ Sending sympathies to Especially to Gerelyn Michelle and Peter and the rest of the family. Although I did not know him, I know his daughters and as they are some reflection of Mr Ward, the world is sweeter because of them, therefore him. Godspeed rest in the perfect peace of God of Abraham. Amen



Stefanie Gooden Pulido - July 13, 2023 at 05:29 PM

SG

“ Stefanie G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Ward.

Stefanie G. - July 13, 2023 at 05:23 PM

GP

“ Geralyn & Peter planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Ward.

Geralyn & Peter - July 13, 2023 at 04:27 PM

TS

“ 4 files added to the album Michael Ward



Tom Sproles - July 13, 2023 at 01:27 PM

SL

“ When I arrived to my parents with my first purchased car, my mom was talking on the phone with her brother Mike. She had a steak waiting for me. She asked Mike what he got from Grandma when he came home in his first new car. You guessed it — steak. Our lineage was always apparent and strong.

Samuel Lee - July 12, 2023 at 09:29 PM

ML

“ Michelle L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Ward.

Michelle L. - July 12, 2023 at 10:27 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael Ward.

July 11, 2023 at 03:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Ward.



July 11, 2023 at 03:28 PM