



James Earnest Leger

June 9, 1936 - January 22, 2021

Ret. Colonel James Earnest "Jim" Leger, age 84, of Cambridge, Ohio passed away in his sleep January 22, 2021. Jim enjoyed a 28-year career in the U.S. Air Force, where he flew refueling tankers, bombers and reconnaissance aircraft before he retired a commanding officer in 1984. He and wife Billie Von (Palmer), from Cambridge, built their retirement home here. Jim had a second career as a teacher, first as a substitute teacher at Buckeye Trail, then later as a high school teacher and Social Studies department chair at Meadowbrook High School until he retired in 2008.

Jim enjoyed fishing and competing in bass fishing tournaments. At home, he enjoyed tinkering in his workshop, landscaping with his wife and watching football, golf and boxing. He also loved camping and boating with his family and hunting. As a boy, he loved building model airplanes.

Jim was born in Evanston, Illinois in 1936. He attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After graduation, he earned his commission as an officer.

Jim completed three tours of duty during the Vietnam War, where he earned a Bronze Star Medal for saving local villagers and fellow servicemen. He also earned a Distinguished Flying Cross, Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and Meritorious Service Medal, among others.

Jim is survived by his two daughters, Michelle Leger and Krystn Opava and granddaughters, Natalie and Anna Opava, and his sister, Rosemary (Leger) Leslie. A private viewing and service were held at Bundy-Law Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Parkinson's Association.

Cemetery Details

At a later date

Tribute Wall

EJ

“ So very sorry to just now hear about Colonel Leger's passing. I was assigned to his squadron from 1974-1977 when he was Operations Officer in the 97th Air Refueling Squadron at Blytheville AFB. Seems he left my last year and was replaced by John Lunt.

Jim had a tough job of deploying crews and aircraft but was very fair in the process. We were also short handed, so some of us wound up pulling alert duty very often. I remember him as being a big guy who was tough at times. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve with him.

Prayers for his family.

Ed Junius - March 25, 2022 at 02:26 PM

TT

“ Jim was a wonderful man. We loved hearing his fishing stories and was amazed at how he could fix any lure for me. Prayers for the family.

Aaron, Tina, McKenzie and Mason Todd

Tina Todd - March 07, 2021 at 09:10 AM

SB

“ Wonderful teacher and friend. Sandy barstow

sandy barstow - February 06, 2021 at 12:31 PM

KO

Thank you Sandy

Krystn Opava - February 08, 2021 at 10:18 PM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Ret. Col. James Earnest Leger, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.
My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Air Force Veteran, Ret. Col. James Earnest Leger, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - February 06, 2021 at 04:59 AM

KO

Beautifully said. Thank you

Krystn Opava - February 08, 2021 at 10:17 PM

MA

“ *Jim was a wonderful man. I always loved to have him your mother and you girls come to visit. Maureen*

Maureen - February 05, 2021 at 04:21 PM

KO

Thank you Aunt Maureen. Natalie and I are heading down this summer and will stop by.

Krystn Opava - February 08, 2021 at 10:19 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Bundy-Law Funeral Home - February 04, 2021 at 03:01 PM