



Kermit Norman Oelberg

February 20, 1933 - July 23, 2012

Col.(Ret.)Kermit “Kem” Norman Oelberg, 79, husband of Lee Oelberg, of Seneca, SC, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 23, 2012 at Cottingham Hospice House.

A native of Waukon, Iowa, Col. Oelberg was the son of the late Albert and Emma Leppert Oelberg. He served as a career officer in the United States Army Corps of Engineers for 30 years. Col. Oelberg served two tours in Vietnam and one tour in Korea. After retirement, Col. Oelberg moved to Lake Keowee where he built his dream home and became a member of Seneca Presbyterian Church. He loved nature and spent two summers completing the Appalachian Trail. He was involved in several organizations: Rotary, JROTC, Boy Scouts, and Military Retired Office Association. Col. Oelberg volunteered and served the Community in Habitat, Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, Adult Education in Reading, and served as a Deacon, Elder, and was on the building committee for Seneca Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his wife, Col. Oelberg is survived by a son, Greg Oelberg (Cathy) of Huntsville, AL; daughters Heidi Allen of Seneca, SC, Paula Sharp (Ken) of Niceville, FL; sisters, Beulah Amundson, and Sarah Enyart of Iowa; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Col. Oelberg was preceded in death by brothers,

Andrew, George, Chris, Harvey, and Charles Oelberg; and sister, Maria Vance.

A memorial service will be held at Seneca Presbyterian Church on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 2:00 PM. The burial will be held at Fort Jackson National Cemetery in Columbia, SC on Friday, July 27, 2012.

The family will receive friends from 12:00-2:00 PM on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at Seneca Presbyterian Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Seneca Presbyterian Church, 115 W. S. First Street, Seneca, SC 29678, or Oconee Hospice of the Foothills, Attn: Foundation Office, 298 Memorial Drive, Seneca, SC 29672.

The family is at their respective homes.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **26.** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Seneca Presbyterian Church
Seneca, SC

Memorial Service

JUL **26.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Seneca Presbyterian Church
Seneca, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Kermit Norman Oelberg*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Lee - so sad to hear of the loss of such a great guy as well as a field grade officer. I knew him when we were stationed at FJ at the same time - and, of course, got to know , appreciate, and like the two of you when we were fellow members of Oconee TROA/MOAA just a few years ago. Please accept our sincere condolences Joe and Joretta Rawl*

Joe Rawl - July 31, 2012 at 02:31 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad time. God bless you all.*



Jan Rice - July 31, 2012 at 12:45 PM

SO

“ I loved it when Uncle Kermit(Kem) would visit us back in Iowa! We would get the family together and go on hikes to the Penny Springs waterfall near the Oelberg farm. He would tell of his adventures hiking the Appalachian Trail. When I asked him how he defended himself (unarmed) from the many bear he encountered, he responded by saying "You just act real big!" and put his arms up like like he was a bear. I admired him for his courage and respect for the wilderness and wildlife.

I got the opportunity to visit Kem, Lee, and Heidi 3 weeks ago. Over dinner we talked about how Kem and Lee first met through a mutual friend. Lee said "He came to the door and that was it!" Kem responded by saying "For better or for worse!" Their eyes lit up and faces beamed with love as they told that story. Uncle Kem was an inspiration to us all. His love of God, his family, and his country was reflected in his words, actions, and his contagious smile.

I am grateful for the opportunity to visit with them and hear these stories. Lee and family, I pray you find comfort in the memories you shared and may God's grace lift you up during this difficult time.

Love,

Selina Oelberg

Selina Kay Oelberg - July 25, 2012 at 05:09 PM

SO

“ I loved it when Uncle Kermit (Kem) would visit us back in Iowa! We would get the group together to go on hikes to the Penny Springs waterfall near the Oelberg family farm. I loved to hear him tell his story of hiking the Appalachian Trail. When I asked him how he defended himself (unarmed) from bear that he encounter, he responded by saying "You just act real big" and raised his arms up like he was a bear. I was amazed by this and also admired him for his respect of the wilderness and wildlife. Uncle Kem was an inspiration for to us all in many ways. His love of God, his family, and his country was reflected in his contagious smile and laugh.

I had the opportunity to visit Kem, Leigh and Heidi 3 weeks ago and we talked about the day Leigh and Kem met through a mutual friend. Leigh said "He came to the door and that was it!" Kem responded by saying " for better or for worse." Their eyes lit up and faces beamed with love when they told this story.

Im grateful to have had the chance to visit with the family in the last few weeks and hear these stories. Aunt Leigh and family, may you find peace and comfort in the memories you shared and may God's grace lift you up during this difficult time.

Love,

Selina Oelberg

Selina Kay Oelberg - July 25, 2012 at 04:49 PM

RT

“ I enjoyed working with Col Oelberg at Fort Jackson. He was always one to take the more direct route which resulted in unintended results. Once landing atop a submerged stump with his motorized canoe at Santee and swimming with the aligators. After about 5 minutes of retrieving fishing gear in the water he asked if I could swim. We would always vie for the back seat when he drove the staff car, occasionally returning to the office with muffler in tow. Great memories!

Ron Troutman

Ron Troutman - July 25, 2012 at 06:40 AM

PH

“ It was such an honor to take care of "Kem" and to get to know all of you. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this sad time. Patty Holcombe



Patricia Holcombe - July 24, 2012 at 08:50 PM

AH

“*Kem was a wonderful person. We were so honored to know him and spend time with him. When I (Anne) came to Seneca with Violet to visit with Kem and Lee at Easter of '11, he was amazing as he worked around their beautiful home and took us out on the lake in his boat. I hadn't been in a boat in many years, and I was a little nervous but I soon learned what a competent sailor he was and saw how smoothly he steered that vessel. Tommy and I were so priviledged to have Kem, Lee, and Heidi attend our wedding in January. Kem was not well then, but he was there with that bright smile which added so much to our day.*

All of you are in our thoughts and prayers during this time, and you will be there for days to come. May God wrap His arms around you with the peace that comes only from Him.

Love, Tommy & Anne Haynes

Anne Smith Haynes - July 24, 2012 at 04:40 PM