

DW BROOKS FUNERAL HOME

Col (R) Edward M. Knights

(January 03, 1944 - March 31, 2019)

Visitation:

6:00pm - 8:00pm

Thursday April 25th, 2019

D.W. Brooks Funeral Home

2950 E Houston St.

San Antonio, Texas 78202

Funeral Service:

9:00am - 10:00am

Friday April 26th, 2019

Post Chapel at Fort Sam Houston

2301 Wilson Way

Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234

Interment:

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

Officiating:

Chaplain

(Capt.) U.S. Army Patrick Cobb

Col. (Ret) Edward Marvin Knights, age 75, passed away at his home in Houston, surrounded by family, on March 31, 2019, after a courageous fight against cancer.

Ed was born on January 3, 1944 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, to Edward and Dorothy (Patton) Knights. From a young age, he vowed to grow up to be “a cowboy and a soldier.” He graduated from Bucknell University and, following in his father’s footsteps, went to dentistry school at the University of Pennsylvania. Ed shared a successful dental practice with his father for almost a decade. He had the steady hands required by the profession, earning him praise from many of his patients.

Ed’s dexterity made him an excellent marksman with almost any firearm. Although his father gave him his first .22 rifle, it was Ed’s grandfather, who was left-handed like him, who taught him how to shoot and respect guns. Ed enjoyed shooting activities his entire life, especially Cowboy Action Shooting, and reveled in any opportunity to talk with a fellow enthusiast.

In 2011, Ed married fellow enthusiast Mary Johnson. They were soul mates who shared a

fiercely independent spirit and cast-iron principles. They embarked on many journeys together, caring for family and building a life together. Mary supported Ed on his final journey and never wavered, lovingly devoted to him until the end.

Ed fulfilled the soldier part of his dream by proudly serving his country in the U.S. Army, in active or reserve status, for more than 30 years, retiring with the rank of Colonel. He commanded the Southeast and Great Plains Regions, was appointed Chief of Healthcare Education and Training for the Army, served as Associate Dean of AMEDD Center and School, and was stationed overseas in Germany (twice) and Kuwait. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal multiple times, once for saving the life of a soldier. As a leader, Ed never lost sight that what mattered most was the people who served with him.

Although Ed was stationed many places, it was in Texas that he felt most at home. He wasn't born in the Lone Star state but, as the saying goes, he got here as soon as he could. Ed put down roots by buying property in the Hill Country at the YO Ranchlands, a place where he could enjoy the cowboy life he dreamed of. It was on the range where Ed was most at peace with the world, teaching his grandchildren how to shoot and sharing with them his respect for the land and its creatures.

Ed made a lasting impression on people he met. The secret was his legendary sense of humor. He had a quick wit and enjoyed poking fun at the absurd in life. During one of his hospital stays, he compared his blood oxygen levels with others in the room and, when his level was slightly higher than someone else, declared himself to be the healthier of the two "give or take a margin of error." His sense of humor never abandoned him, even during the darkest days of his illness, and will be long remembered.

In addition to his wife, Ed is survived by his children Josh(Lara), Elissa (Drew), Jeremy, Jared, and Brittany (Jacob); grandchildren Will, Xander, Kingston, Maya, Carter, Liam, and Bella; sister Dotty (David); and many nieces and nephews.

Ed will be laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. Services will be held on Friday, April 26, at 9 am at the Main Post Chapel with interment at 11 am. Family will greet friends from 6 pm to 8 pm on Thursday, April 25, at D.W. Brooks Funeral Home at 2950 E. Houston Street in San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites memorials be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.