



Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr.

November 9, 1937 - September 20, 2025

Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) IJ Elder Sr. was born on November 9, 1937 in Canton, Mississippi. He was the seventh of ten children born to Clyde Elder Sr and Ernestine (Galloway) Elder. He was affectionately called “Doochie” by his parents and siblings. The angels came and escorted our beloved father to eternal rest on September 20, 2025 in Fayetteville, NC. He lived a life defined by dedication, service, and love for his family and community.

In February 1956, IJ enlisted in the United States Army, where he devoted 30 years of faithful service, rising to the rank of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) before retiring in February 1986. His distinguished career included two combat tours in Vietnam where he demonstrated exceptional honor, leadership, and sacrifice. Among his many awards and decorations, he earned the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, two Bronze Stars with “V” Device for Valor, and the Purple Heart. His service and sacrifice leave behind a legacy of courage and devotion to his country.

Beyond his military service, CSM Elder was an active and “Elite” member of the Samuel Council 555th “Triple Nickle” Parachute Infantry Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW Post 6018), the American Legion and the Retired Military Association, where he cherished lifelong friendships and camaraderie. In his free time, he treasured moments with his family, shared stories from his service, watched his favorite shows (westerns and CNN) and

dedicated himself to supporting fellow veterans.

He will be remembered for his unwavering devotion to his country, his steadfast love for his family, and the countless lives he touched through his friendship and service. A man of faith deeply committed to Jesus Christ, IJ was a member of Saint Jude Missionary Baptist Church and enjoyed service at Fresh Water Anointing Christian Church in Lumberton. He was very generous, supporting charities committed to preserving culture, history and diversity. Amongst the many, his favorites include St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

IJ and Edith were united in holy matrimony on October 9, 1959. Their union was blessed with five children. He was a providing husband, father, and grandfather, remembered for imparting lessons in history and instilling in his family a deep commitment to excellence.

CSM Elder was preceded in death by his parents Clyde and Ernestine; five brothers, Clyde Jr, Ulysses, Vernon, Mack Willie, and Ellis; and two sisters, Kathryn Elder and Maxine Ross.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Edith; five children, Mary Miller (Monte), Carmen (Steve) Goulet, Pia Thompson, Nefertiti (Corey) Fields, and IJ Elder Jr.; two sisters, Beatrice (Percy) Evans and Helen Warren; 15 grandchildren Naaron, Candice, Miranda, McKenzie, Mariah, Stephanie, Steven, Clifford, Terence, Marcus, Patrick, Ishnel, Robert, Jacori and Namoni and 19 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at St Jude Missionary Baptist Church, 3600 Acordia Ln Hope Mills, NC 28348 at 1100, Saturday, September 27, 2025. He

will be laid to rest with full military honors following the services.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude for the prayers, support, and comfort shared by friends and loved ones during this time of remembrance.

In lieu of flowers send donations to:
Samuel Council Chapter 555th P.I.A
P.O. Box 555
Fayetteville, NC 28302
Attention Trooper CSM IJ Elder
Scholarship fund

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP **26.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel
2010 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Funeral Service

SEP **27.** 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Jude Missionary Baptist Church
3600 Acordia Ln.
Hope Mills, NC 28348

Burial

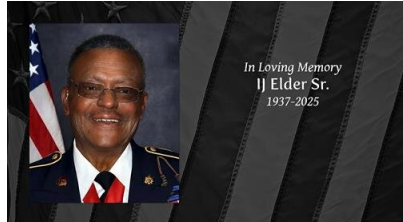
OCT **2.** 12:00 PM (ET)

Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery
8220 Bragg Blvd
Spring Lake, NC 28390

Tribute Wall



“ *Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr.*



H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - September 25, 2025 at 11:59 AM

WA

*To The Fields Family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Keep your hands in God's hand and he will see you through. Praying for you.
Much Love, Wanda*

Wanda Autman - September 26, 2025 at 02:01 PM

PO

“ *To the family of CSM (RET USA) IJ Elder, Sr.
My family and I send our deepest heartfelt condolences and prayers to you and your family. May the God of comfort grant you all comfort, peace, and strengthen your hearts as you reflect on the precious memories of your loved one. Thankful for the love and friendship that our families have shared for so many years.
Lovingly, Patricia Offer and family.*



Patricia Offer - September 27, 2025 at 05:44 AM

JS

“ *Jessyca Smith lit a candle in memory of CSM
IJ Elder*



Jessyca Smith - September 26, 2025 at 03:42 PM

JS

“ *My deepest condolences to you and your family Mamma Mrs. Edith
Elder sorry for your loss love u always Jessyca*

Jessyca Smith - September 26, 2025 at 03:37 PM

AH

“ *I send my deepest condolences to Mary Miller and the Elder family,
may the GREAT GOD of HEAVEN Comfort you and your family.
AL Howard*

Alfonso Howard - September 26, 2025 at 07:47 AM

EL

“ *Heartfelt sympathy to the Elder family.*



Elaine - September 26, 2025 at 01:23 AM

MS

“ *Marvin L. Hargrove Sr. lit a candle in memory of CSM IJ Elder*



Marvin L. Hargrove Sr. - September 25, 2025 at 10:35 PM

AS

“ *Amy Stroman purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hipphyllum for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..*



Amy Stroman - September 25, 2025 at 07:00 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..*



September 25, 2025 at 05:55 PM

UF

“ *USAA Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..*



USAA Family - September 25, 2025 at 02:13 PM

UF

“ *USAA Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..*

USAA Family - September 25, 2025 at 02:13 PM

TF

“ *The Flippo Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..*



The Flippo Family - September 25, 2025 at 10:11 AM

TF

“ *The Flippo Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..*

The Flippo Family - September 25, 2025 at 10:11 AM

CE

“ *To Uncle IJ Family with Love and honor celebrating his homegoing and a life well served.He touched my family from afar with phone calls and family history.
Best regards-Calvin Elder family Oakland,CA*

Calvin Elder - September 24, 2025 at 11:30 PM

LA

“ On behalf of the John Griffin Middle School family, I send my sincerest condolences to Nefertiti Fields and family during this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Dr. Latreicia Allen
Principal
John Griffin Middle School*

Latreicia Allen - September 24, 2025 at 03:46 PM

PT

“ Pia T. purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..



Pia T. - September 24, 2025 at 11:53 AM

ZB

“ Zobeida Barginere purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..



Zobeida Barginere - September 24, 2025 at 11:28 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..



September 24, 2025 at 09:39 AM

AJ

“ Alice and Jonathan purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..



Alice and Jonathan - September 24, 2025 at 09:18 AM

AJ

“ Alice and Jonathan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..

Alice and Jonathan - September 24, 2025 at 09:18 AM

BH

“ Blanch and Craig Hylton purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..



Blanch and Craig Hylton - September 24, 2025 at 06:29 AM

BH

“ Blanch and Craig Hylton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Retired CSM IJ Elder Sr..

Blanch and Craig Hylton - September 24, 2025 at 06:29 AM

TS

“ Trooper Debra M Slaughter lit a candle in memory of CSM IJ Elder



Trooper Debra M Slaughter - September 23, 2025 at 03:13 PM

TD

“ Thaddeus L Daniels lit a candle in memory of CSM IJ Elder



Thaddeus L Daniels - September 23, 2025 at 08:31 AM

MJ

“ I would like to send my condolences to the family of our beloved brother.
Malcolm j.

Malcolm Johnson - September 22, 2025 at 11:59 PM

MM

Sorry for your loss. By reading your father's obituary he was a great man.

Mike Mancari - September 23, 2025 at 11:18 AM

RG

Please accept our sincerest condolences on the loss of our dear family member, IJ Elder. He was admired by all who met him for his strength, his dignity and his commitment of service to our country. He will be missed at our family reunions but we know that there is a greater reunion awaiting him now.

The Joe and Beatrice Galloway family.

Rocky Galloway - September 25, 2025 at 02:45 PM