



Walter Cole

November 25, 1943 - July 14, 2021

Obituary

Sergeant Major (RET) Walter Cole, age 77, of Fayetteville, NC was called home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, July 14, 2021. He was born in Four Oaks, NC on November 25, 1943. Preceding him in death were his parents, George Cole and Callie Cole, three sisters, Gertrude Williams, Nadine Jackson, Nellie Green and two brothers, Leroy Cole and Eugene Cole. Walter graduated from Forest Hill High School in Four Oaks, NC in 1962. Following his graduation from high school, he entered the United States Army, in which he served honorably for 29 years, achieving the rank of Sergeant Major (E9).

He is a proud veteran of the Vietnam War, where he served faithfully for one tour of duty. He also served foreign duty assignments in Germany, Panama Canal Zone and South Korea. Since Walter's military career field was aviation, once back in the United States, he was selected for the prestigious assignment of Senior Helicopter Mechanics Technician based at Fort Belvoir, VA. In this position, he was responsible for the readiness of the helicopter fleet that transports high ranking dignitaries and other government officials.

Following this assignment, he was selected to serve as the Senior Enlisted Career Advisor for the Army's enlisted aviators worldwide from the Army Human Resources branch based at the Pentagon in Arlington, VA. During his enlistment, he received numerous awards and decorations which included the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

Walter's Army career played a very important role in his life. The discipline and patriotism he learned in the Army never left him, as his family and friends will attest. Upon retiring from the Army in July of 1992, he relocated to Fayetteville, NC to be closer to his family. Once settled, he pursued a career as Supervisor of Custodial Services for the Cumberland County School system. Additionally, Walter became a very loyal and dedicated Life Member of VFW Post 6018.

Walter loved fishing, yard work, and gardening. He found sanctuary in long fishing trips, as well as riding his motorized lawn mower and tending to his yard and vegetable garden. He also loved and enjoyed cooking some good ole soul food and grilling that finger licking chicken and ribs. Surprisingly, Walter was one to really enjoy some smooth, foot stomping Old School sounds and live entertainment.

He will be profoundly missed by everyone who knew him. He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife of 45 years, Sandra Cole, Fayetteville, NC, and a stepson, Kent McLaurin, Alexandria, VA. He is also survived by an adoring sister, Dorothy Cole, Greensboro, NC, and two loving brothers, Charles Cole (Lucy), Fayetteville, NC, and George Cole, Jr. Neptune, NJ, in addition to a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery

8220 Bragg Blvd
Spring Lake, NC 28390

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 22. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel
2010 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Funeral

JUL 22. 1:00 PM (ET)

Colvin Funeral Home Chapel
2010 Murchison Road
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Livestreaming

JUL 22. 1:00 PM.

Facebook: Colvin Funeral Home and Crematory-Fayetteville & Lumberton
<https://www.facebook.com/ColvinFuneralHomeCORP/>

Burial

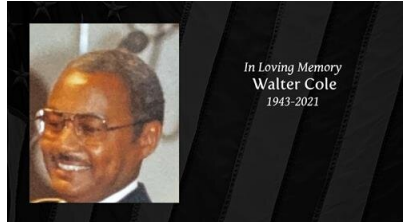
JUL **22**. 3:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Walter Cole



H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - July 23, 2021 at 09:39 AM

CG

Beautiful! Rest in the arms of our mighty God and savior. You will always be my brother-in-law.

Carozetta Goodwin - July 23, 2021 at 08:46 PM

GM

This was well puy together and he desired all this and more

George T Matthews - August 27, 2021 at 07:46 AM

KB

Thank you God for blessings Mr. Walter from childhood to manhood. For giving him the opportunity to enjoy a good life here on Earth. For keeping him safe while he served in the military. To make it through and to still be in his right mind and to have all of his members of his body. To give him the opportunity to do the things that he loved to that gave him joy and peace. He served his country with honors and his loving wife and Son. He will be truly missed by his family and friends and me. And now has the opportunity to serve you Father God. He is your creation. You made him in your image. And from his track record he is going to serve you well dear Lord. Thank you God for Mr. Walters journey here on Earth and for him to give you the honor, praise and glory. For you are worthy Lord God.

Kevin Baker - September 05, 2021 at 09:52 AM

RH

*Although I didn't know Mr. Cole, my continued prayers are for Mother Cole and family as time heals all wounds!! We know to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. May he rest from his labors!
Love you much ❤️*

Rev. Lance Hair

Rev. Lance Hair - November 08, 2023 at 01:53 AM

JN

“Walter was always a very special friend to me. He immediately welcomed me into his home and was always kind and thoughtful. We had known each other for a few years when Walter and Sandy were up visiting Sandy's son, Kent. Walter, Sandy, and Kent were having dinner at my house right before Christmas. My parents had gone to Texas to spend Christmas with my sister and nephew. There was a situation involving my sister which had me very upset. I thought I was hiding my feelings very well. Walter started asking me what was wrong. I played it off as nothing. He finally had heard enough of my denials and asked me outright what was going on. The response I was expecting from him was judgment and disapproval. The response I got was the exact opposite. He told me he understood why I was upset and offered me counsel and unconditional support. Walter already held a special place in my heart, but he touched me deeply that Christmas. I knew at that point that I had seen the true man he was - caring, compassionate, understanding. Another thing he did for me was grill ribs. I make some awesome ribs, but they don't hold a candle to his. Although he never shared his sauce recipe, he always let me watch him grill them. He taught me some techniques with the grill which improved mine. There are many other things he did for me - too many to mention - so I'll leave it with just these.

Walter was not a perfect man and never claimed to be. Like all of us, he had his issues. With me, Walter was a dear friend and a man I loved and respected. His friendship meant a great deal to me and he will be sorely missed. When I see someone who is stressed and in need of a friend, I'll think of Walter and how he helped me that Christmas. When I smell ribs on a charcoal grill, I'll think of Walter and how he made the best ribs ever. When I am sad that he is no longer with us, I'll think of the good times he and I shared and I'll smile. Rest in peace, Walter Cole. Rest in peace, my friend.

Jeffrey Van Ness - October 03, 2021 at 12:34 PM

LM

“ *Ms. Sandy we were so saddened to hear about the passing of Mr. Cole. He always made us feel so special whenever we were around him. We have very fond memories of hanging out with him at the beaches in Panama. He may have transitioned, but will never be forgotten. It meant a lot to Sandy and I to hear Mr. Cole tell us how proud he was of us, beautiful we were and we raised such wonderful families. Wishing you comfort and peace to face the days ahead and know that you will forever be in our thoughts and prayers!*

Lisa Myers - September 08, 2021 at 08:02 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Sergeant Major Walter Cole military funeral*



Kent McLaurin - August 12, 2021 at 09:56 PM

LI

“ *Lillian lit a candle in memory of Walter Cole*



Lillian - July 29, 2021 at 05:22 PM

WH

*In memory of Walter Cole. It has been 35 years of friend ship for us. Some people come in to our lives and leave memories that we will never forget. Sandra our condolences to your entire family .
Love William and Mary Harvey*

Wm and Mary Harvey - October 03, 2021 at 09:41 PM

AN

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Angel - July 24, 2021 at 08:01 PM

KM

“ 1 file added to the album *Sergeant Major Walter Cole military funeral*



Kent McLaurin - July 24, 2021 at 07:42 PM

DJ

Amazing! My deepest thanks for your service to our country, Uncle Walter. Rest in honorable peace, sir. Great job on the video, Kent.

Dee Jackson - July 30, 2021 at 04:27 PM

SJ

My sincere condolences to Sandy and his family. SGM was my supervisor in the Aviation/Transportation Branch. He was a great leader and will truly be missed. Time to rest now SGM Cole. You served your country well.

Sandy 2

Sandra Jordon - August 26, 2021 at 12:52 PM

MG

“ *Sandy and Kent. Our prayers are with you doing this difficult time. We wanted to be there for you, but the doctor didn't release me to travel. May God be with you and give you strength through this journey.*

Marti & Griff

Marti Griffin - July 22, 2021 at 12:49 PM

DA

“ *Mama Cole, sending prayers of love and condolences to you and the family from Nicklous and Darlyn Adams. We love you!*



Darlyn Adams - July 22, 2021 at 10:04 AM

BM

“ *Sandy and Kent, our hearts are sharing your grief. Just know God's peace and comfort surrounds you. You are not alone. We love you.*

Bettye & Felicia

Bettye Maye - July 22, 2021 at 05:20 AM

EJ

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Emma & Eddie Johnson*

Emma Johnson - July 21, 2021 at 05:24 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of
Walter Cole.*



July 21, 2021 at 11:41 AM

CO

“ *Much love to you Sandra, Jewell and I continue to pray that the Lord
will give you peace . Philipians 4*

Cary and Jewell Owsley - July 20, 2021 at 08:44 PM

HS

“ *Harold and Tina Sightler purchased the Sacred Duty
Spray for the family of Walter Cole.*



Harold and Tina Sightler - July 20, 2021 at 08:13 PM

RR

“ *Sandy, I am so sorry for your loss. I am praying for you and your
family. You are in my thoughts. May God give you comfort and
peace! Love you! Rose and India*

Rosemary Reaves-Brown - July 20, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Cole.*



July 20, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Walter Cole.*



July 20, 2021 at 03:57 PM



“ *Neil Brown lit a candle in memory of Walter Cole*



Neil Brown - July 20, 2021 at 03:11 PM



“ *To Mother Cole, we are praying for your family from Gerald and Mari Williams and Mother Patricia Baker.*

Mari Williams - July 20, 2021 at 07:52 AM