



Craig E. Charles

April 9, 1936 - November 17, 2010

Craig E. Charles, 74, of Lebanon, passed away on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, at his home. He was the husband of Diane L. Bishop Charles and in June they celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. Born in Houston, AR on April 8, 1936, he was the son of the late J. Otis and Verda Mae Dobson. He retired in 1991 as a Col. from the PA Army National Guard where he served for 33 years. He also served in the US Army during the Vietnam conflict as a helicopter pilot. During his tour of duty, he was awarded 13 air medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor for "heroism while participating in aerial flight." From 1981 to 1985, he was Commander of the 28th Aviation Battalion of the PA Army National Guard. He attended the Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church, Jonestown, and he loved to golf. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons Craig D., husband of Elena L. Charles of Dillsburg and Bryan E., husband of Susan M. Charles of West Henrietta, NY; daughters Susan M., wife of Todd Fies of Mt. Gretna and Robin L., wife of Randy A. Mauk of Lebanon; grandchildren Bethany, Sarah, Luke and Erika Fies, Justin Charles and Emily and Olivia Charles; sister Bennie Sue Hoskins of Fresno, CA and a half-brother Berman James Charles of Little Rock, AR. He was preceded in death by his granddaughter Ryleigh Mauk. Funeral services will be held on Monday, November 22, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at the Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church, 600 Shepherd St., Jonestown. Viewing will be held on Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory, Rt. 72 & Camp Meeting Rd., Jonestown and prior to the service

at the church. Interment with military honors will be held at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the AseraCare Hospice, 226 Guilford St., Lebanon, PA 17046-3855 or to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 1274, Lebanon, PA 17042.

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Tribute Wall

GH

“ *I am saddened to hear of the passing of this fine man and fellow Troop N aviator. I salute his service to our country.*

Gerry Hess - November 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ *We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Col Charles. I was a member of the PA Guard while he was Commander. My sympathies and prayers to your entire family.*

Pamela (Dent) Kelley - November 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EZ

“ *Mrs. Charles, Both Mike Deparolis and I want to express our sympathy to you and your family at this time. Craig was a wonderful person and we will miss him. Take care and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Esther & Mike*

Esther Zellers - November 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM