



Richard F. Fearnside

March 5, 1955 - August 28, 2024

Niskayuna, NY- Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Richard Fearnside, 69, passed away on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, in Niskayuna, NY.

Born and raised in Albany, Richard led a distinguished 35-year career in the Army. Enlisting in 1974, he began as an infantryman and held positions of increasing responsibility throughout his service. Due to his exceptional leadership and performance, his career culminated as the Command Sergeant Major of the 42nd Infantry Division (Rainbow) in Troy, where he led the Division during their deployment to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, retiring in 2009.

Throughout his career, he earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Expert Infantry Badge, and the Combat Action Badge, among others.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Jane Fearnside, and his sister, Joan Fearnside O'Rourke. He is survived by his three children, Jeffrey, Matthew, and Brittany Fearnside; his three grandchildren, Ryan and Morgan Fearnside, and Teagan Blanc; his brother, Earl (Sandy), his wife Anne (Sissy) Fearnside and their children, Megan Whitford, Kevin Fearnside, Patrick Johnson, and Kim Huntoon; his sister, Bonnie Paige and her children

Harrison and Olivia Paige; as well as his late sister Joans children, Patrick and Marin O'Rourke

He will be lovingly remembered by his friends and family for his deep passion for the Army and his immense pride and joy in the growth and many accomplishments of his children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Funeral services Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 10:00 am St. Vincent De Paul Church, Madison Ave., Albany, NY where his Funeral Mass will be celebrated.

The Rite of Committal will be held at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY with military honors, immediately following the Mass.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Richard's honor to the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund. For more information, visit johnnymac.org.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

SEP 3. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Vincent De Paul Church
900 Madison Ave.
Albany, NY 12208

Tribute Wall

ED

“ *What a great friend he was to the Lasalle Ranger JROTC program. He went to Fort Drum with us in 1977 and did war games with us for two weeks and many others training exercise over the years. We stayed friends ever since. He was a great person. My deepest condolences to his family.*

Ed - September 02, 2024 at 11:42 AM

CW

“ *Deepest sympathies to you and your family. Dick will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Chuck Wilson

Charles Wilson - September 01, 2024 at 06:59 PM

JS

“ *CSM Fearnside was a splendid soldier and an inspiration to his comrades. I am honored to have served beside him.*

John Wands Sacca


John Wands Sacca - September 01, 2024 at 11:39 AM

LW

“ *Sending my deepest sympathy on the loss of your beloved Dick.*



Lisa Wolf - August 31, 2024 at 09:47 AM

 Aimee
Riley

“ *As we grieve the loss of our dear friend, let us remember what a wonderful man he was. I will truly miss him. My condolences to his family. Aimee Riley.*

Aimee Riley - August 31, 2024 at 08:14 AM