

Ernest D. Minichello

April 19, 1946 - March 26, 2022

Ernest D. Minichello passed away on March 26, 2022 surrounded by his loving family. Ernest was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 19th, 1946 to Ernest A. Minichello and Mary T. (Rocci) Minichello. He lived with his family in South Euclid, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. Ernest was the oldest of his parents four sons followed by Dennis, Eugene and Michael. He attended St. Gregory the Great Catholic School and St. Joseph's High School for boys, graduating in 1964. He was accepted into Ohio University, Athens Ohio, and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelors of Arts Degree. While at Ohio University he met his future wife Judith K. (Blauser) Minichello. They were married on December 23rd 1968 and enjoyed the next 54 years of their lives together.

Following his graduation from Ohio University Ernest enlisted in the United States Army as an Infantryman, completing both his basic and advanced training at Fort Dix, NJ. Ernest was then sent to Officer Candidate School (OCS), 64th Training Company, at Fort Benning, GA. Upon graduation from OCS in March 1969 he received his commission as an Infantry Officer in the rank of Second Lieutenant. His initial posting was to Fort Ord, CA, as a training officer in the Basic Combat Training Group followed by Jungle Warfare Training in Panama.

In September of 1969, 2nd Lieutenant Minichello was deployed to Vietnam where he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), 199th Light Infantry Brigade. 2nd Lieutenant Minichello served as a Combat Infantry Platoon Leader in 3rd Platoon, Delta Company where he received a Combat Infantry Badge. He was then reassigned as a Tactical Operations Officer in the Headquarters of 2nd Battalion where he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

Upon his return from service in Vietnam 1st Lieutenant Minichello was assigned to Fort Lewis, WA, and served as Officer in Charge of a detachment in the Advanced Infantry Training Group. He was discharged from active military duty in March 1971 and with his wife, Judy, moved back to Ohio and ultimately settled in Bay Village, Ohio, to raise their family and begin his civilian career with the Federal Civil Service.

He first served in the Veterans Administration then the U.S. Department of Labor where he worked as an Investigator with the Office of Labor Management Standards until he retired in 2003.

In addition to his civilian career he resumed his military service as a U.S. Army Reservist. His Army Reserve assignments included the 2077th USAR School, 2nd Psychological Operations Group, U.S. Forces Caribbean, and U.S. Atlantic Command. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1997.

Lieutenant Colonel Minichello was also active in several veteran organizations including the Reserve Officer's Association, Military Officer Association of America, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 15 (where he served as treasurer) and the American Legion Post 211 in Avon Lake, OH (where he served as Commander). He was also a member of the Joint Veterans Honor Guard which provides graveside military honors for deceased veterans in the Greater Cleveland area.

Ernest and Judy have three children of whom they are very proud; Kristina (Christian) Hansen, Ernest C. (Yolanda) Minichello, and John (Kristen) Minichello. Ernest also leaves a legacy of ten beloved grand children; Rhyanna (Brad Ziebro) Wroblecky, Catriona Wroblecky, Acadia Hansen, Sigurd Hansen, Ernest "Christopher" Minichello, Mia Minichello, Yayla Blodgett-White, Rashaud Blodgett, Liza Minichello and Dominic Minichello. Ernest is also survived by his brothers; Dennis (Janine) Minichello, Eugene (Theresa) Minichello, Michael (Marianne) Minichello; Sister-in-laws,

Janice (the late Donald) Kuhn, Kathy (the late John) Blauser, and many amazing nieces, nephews and cousins.

Family and friends may call on Monday, April 4, 2022 from 12:00 Noon-2:30 PM at the Sunset Chapel, 6245 Columbia Road North Olmsted, Ohio 44070. Funeral services will take place at 2:30 PM at the chapel. Burial with military honors will take place on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 12:30 PM, at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, 10175 Rawiga Rd, Seville, OH 44273. Please meet at the Sunset Chapel, 6245 Columbia Road North Olmsted, Ohio 44070 at 11:00 AM to join the procession.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Ernest Minichello's name to "The Ohio University Foundation," designated for the Lt. Col. Ernest D. Minichello, B.A. 1968 Veterans Scholarship Endowment, and mailed to The Ohio University Foundation, P.O. Box 869. Athens. Ohio 45701, or online at www.ohio.edu/give.

Memorial contributions can also be made in Ernest Minichello's name to The Vietnamese Community Center in Cleveland, 7804 Madison Ave. Cleveland, OH 44102 www.vietnamcleveland.com/

Cemetery Details

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery

10175 Rawiga Rd.
Rittman, OH 44270

Previous Events

Visitation prior to ceremony

APR 4. 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Sunset Chapel
6245 Columbia Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Funeral Service

APR 4. 2:30 PM (ET)

Sunset Chapel
6245 Columbia Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Burial with Military Honors

APR 5. 12:30 PM (ET)

Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery
10175 Rawiga Rd.
Rittman, OH 44270

Tribute Wall

JK

“ *Judy and Family -- much love to you all. With so many good things to say about Ernie,
I've been trying to find the best phrase to start with - and Col. Connie Brown nailed it: "A loving man of honor and dignity." Ernie so enjoyed talking about his loving family, yet he always asked how our family was doing. He had so many good stories to tell and information to share, yet he always listened intently to what others were contributing. Such a great listener!. Finally, I'll always remember how sweet he was to appreciate my goofy jokes. His eyes would squint as that big smile came across his face. Helen and I are blessed to have known Ernie.*
John David Konold

John David and Helen Konold - April 03 at 01:35 PM

JD

“ *Our condolences to the entire Minichello family in their loss of Ernest. May memories of him bring them much comfort in the days ahead.*

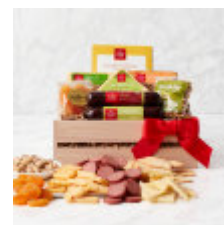
Janice and Rick Daitchman



Janice and Rick Daitchman - April 03 at 10:43 AM

DG

“ *Doris Gorgas purchased the Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate for the family of Ernest D. Minichello.*



Doris Gorgas - April 03 at 09:28 AM

DG

“ *Ernie added so much to Carlton Drive for years. His devotion to his family and friends was remarkable. Every year, he would help organize the placing of USA flags on the curb lawns for patriotic holidays, plus luminaries at Christmastime. He never missed a holiday. A Patriot that will be missed. Doris Gorgas*



Doris Gorgas - April 03 at 09:22 AM

PP

My sincere condolences to Ernie's family and dear friends. Ernie took multiple business, marketing and management classes from me at the Tri-C campus Parma starting in 2006. Ernie was an exceptional student and we often talked after class. The world has lost a very fine person.
Dr. Pat Patwardhan

Pat Patwardhan - April 03 at 04:10 PM

KM

“ *Kathleen M. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernest D. Minichello.*



Kathleen M. - April 02 at 04:29 PM

CR

“ *I met Ernie in the jungle in Vietnam. I was the commander of D Company, 2/3rd Infantry, "The Old Guard". Second Lt. Minichello became a 40 man platoon leader and later, the Executive Officer.*

We spent many, many nights sleeping on the ground, dodging bullets and went weeks without a shower. It was like going to summer camp, except for real.

Ernie was an excellent leader of men and they would follow him without question. I too felt safer when he was watching my back.

Ernie always kept in touch and we started meeting for dinner every year when he and Judy came to DC to visit their family and to attend the annual reunion of his "Old Guard".

Each year he pressed me, unsuccessfully, to come to the reunion. Ha, Ha! However, mostly he talked about his beloved family and, of course, to show off the latest pictures.

Between the dinners and the, "Hello Colonel, Ernie Minichello here." periodic phone calls I got to know the true Ernie. He was a loving man of honor and dignity that kind of caught you by surprise. It was also clear that the central pillar of his strength was his beloved wife Judith. Quiet and reserved, she was always there, especially throughout his courageous fight during the last few years.

Deborah and I feel proud to be among their Friends.

Ernie will be missed here, but welcomed in Heaven. They can always use someone with his kind of class.

COL&Mrs. Connie A Brown

Connie A Brown, COL, USA, Ret. - April 01 at 05:01 PM

RA

“ *RG Property Advisors purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ernest D. Minichello.*



RG Property Advisors - April 01 at 10:09 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ernest D. Minichello.*



March 31 at 08:55 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Ernest Minichello - March 29 at 07:25 PM

EM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Ernest Minichello - March 29 at 07:08 PM

RO

“ *Bob and I send our sincerest condolences to the Family of Ernest D. Minichello.*

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

The Ottos

Robert and Linda Otto - March 29 at 01:57 PM

RO

“ Robert and Linda Otto purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernest D. Minichello.



Robert and Linda Otto - March 29 at 01:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ernest D. Minichello.



March 29 at 10:16 AM

TG

“ When we were in high school. I looked up to Ernie. He was smart, focused and a leader. Played the clarinet, too. I am grateful that we kept up over the years. He was a thoughtful, direct and caring person. He was and will remain a valued friend. My sympathy to you, Judy, and to the entire family. May Ernie rest in peace.

Tom Gagliardo - March 29 at 09:11 AM

TH

Col. Minichello likes to come share with the Vietnam Veterans at the Vietnamese Community Headquarters. He and his his wife Judy love to chit-chat with us in all events that we organized. I still remember Ernest sang a song with us when we had the grand opening of our Veterans Club in June 2020. The name of the song is "Where have all the flowers gone". He told me he loves this song. I still remember this beautiful time with them. He was a good friend in arm, and a strong caring person to our Vietnamese refugees. Rest in peace Colonel!

Toan Huynh - March 30 at 07:03 PM