



Donald Rex Crowell

September 4, 1943 - December 22, 2020

Donald Rex Crowell passed away peacefully at the age of 77 surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Rex was born September 4, 1943 the son of Charles and Anna Crowell.

Rex attended Longton High School in Longton, Kansas. After he graduated high school in 1961, Rex attended Independence Community College and Emporia State University where he received his B.S.E Degree from Kansas Teachers College in Emporia in 1965. After graduation, Rex lived in California while working for Southwestern Bell.

Rex went on to serve his country as a First Lieutenant for the United States Army in the Vietnam War. He was critically injured in the line of duty in Vietnam as an Assistant Battalion Advisor, 1st Battalion, 46th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam where he fought bravely in multiple battles against the enemy. His valor in battle on November 11th, 1967 against enemy forces in Can Douc, Vietnam earned Rex the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. His gallantry in action saved countless lives when being overran by enemy fighters. First Lieutenant Crowell led a punishing retaliation effort against the enemy which ultimately forced the enemy to retreat from their position. Rex was awarded the Purple Heart for being critically injured in combat. His other citations include National Defense Service Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Vietnam

Campaign Medal.

His time spent in Vietnam sparked a love of languages in Rex and an appreciation of seeing the world. After recovering from his injuries, Rex traveled and learned several languages. While he enjoyed traveling, his heart and home were always in Longton, Kansas.

After returning home, Rex held public office as a Representative for the State of Kansas from 1975 – 1994. During this time, he was appointed Chairman of the Transportation Committee and served on the Kansas Turnpike Authority Board for 12 years. While making a difference in the legislature, Rex also found time to receive his Law Degree from Washburn University.

Rex raised his family in Longton, Kansas where he was a rancher, attorney, school psychologist and school board member. Next to spending quality time with his daughters and grandchildren, Rex enjoyed spending his free time working at his family farm where he grew up.

Rex did many things throughout his lifetime, but what he was most proud of was being a loving father and grandfather.

Rex was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings: Charles Crowell Jr. "Sandy", Frank Crowell, Caryl Crowell, Kathryn Lozano "Kathy" and James Crowell "Jimmy".

Rex will be forever remembered by his five daughters from his marriage to Nancy Brogan Crowell; Shanda (Eric) Ortega of Kansas City, Missouri; Sarah (Matthew) Smith of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Ashley (Tom) Gilkey of Destin, Florida; Erin (Ryan) Scott of Elkhart, Kansas; and Natalie Crowell of Wichita, Kansas. He will also be lovingly remembered by his 11 grandchildren: Isabela Ortega, Mila Ortega, Charlotte Smith, Elizabeth Gilkey, Thomas Gilkey

IV, Emily Gilkey, Stafford Gilkey, Brogan Scott, Liam Scott, Ashlyn Scott and Finnegan Scott; by his sister Beverly (Norman) Baker and by his sister-in laws Jean Crowell and Sharon Crowell.

Rex will also be fondly remembered by his numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends.

A celebration of Rex's life will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 1pm in Longton, Kansas at the United Methodist Church. Immediately following, there will be a graveside service at the Longton Cemetery.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 from 4-6pm in Howard, Kansas at Countryside Funeral Home.

For those who cannot attend, a video will be available online at www.countrysidedefh.com following the services.

A memorial has been set-up for the Disabled American Veterans, and can be mailed to or left with the funeral home.

Services have been entrusted to:

Countryside Funeral Home, 206 E. Washington, PO Box 1233, Howard, KS 67349

Cemetery Details

Longton Cemetery

Longton, KS 67352

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 13. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Howard
206 E. Washington
P.O. Box 1233
Howard, KS 67349
(620) 374-2381

Service

JAN 14. 1:00 PM (CT)

Longton United Methodist Church
200 W. 5th
Longton, KS 67352

Tribute Wall

JG

“ I served with Rex in Vietnam. In fact, I was with him during the battle mentioned in his obituary. Some time after that event he was talking to me on the radio and while he was speaking I heard the bullet hit him and, of course, he quite talking. The command and control helicopter overhead landed and took Rex to the hospital. I remember our commanding officer, who was in the helicopter telling us that he picked Rex up and was running to the helicopter with Rex over his shoulder and that he fell while rescuing Rex. He told me that he was so embarrassed and sorry but at least Rex was on his way to the hospital within minutes of being wounded. Rex and I kept in contact from time to time over the years. In July of 2020 I texted Rex and mentioned that I would like to chat again. I never heard from him and based upon what I perceive from his obituary I assume he was in ill health by that time. I always wanted to talk more with him about our time together.

I have a few photographs of Rex in Vietnam that I would be happy to share copies of with his family. Feel free to contact me. I would love to chat with any of his kids or grandkids or any other family member.

I thank God that I had the honor and privilege of knowing Rex. He was a good man and a brave soldier.

PEACE!!

John Gambino

432-664-9997

johngambino88@gmail.com

John Gambino - September 09, 2021 at 08:28 PM

BD

“ I first met Rex when he and my father, Jim Lowther, became State Representatives in 1975. Rex and Dad shared an apartment in Topeka during several sessions. Rex was often in Emporia while going to school and sometimes stayed with my parents. One summer, I babysat Shanda and baby Sarah while both Rex and Nancy were taking summer school classes. My dad is 91 one now, yet was pretty shaken up to learn that Rex had passed away. I don't know that they had much contact in later years, but they shared many trials and tribulations during their time in Topeka. I think you always have a bond with people when you've gone through trials and tribulations together. I know all of you, his family, will miss him so much, but I'm hoping that all of the good times and memories will keep your hearts filled. Becky Lowther Doan, Emporia, KS

Becky Doan - January 21, 2021 at 02:24 AM



“ Before he got sick, Uncle Rex indulged me in posing with me and some of the story characters I've made.

The last time I saw him, he hugged me and said, "Keep up the good work."



Ritagail Burleson - January 16, 2021 at 10:44 AM

JC

“ Wonderful service for an extraordinary man. It was an honor to get to know and care for Rex in the last year of his life. Wish I could have accompanied him to the farm as he had invited me to go so many times. Loved his smile and laugh, and that glint in his eyes when he talked about his girls. The world was a better place with him in it.

Jill Cook - January 16, 2021 at 12:24 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Service



Countryside Funeral Home - January 15, 2021 at 04:14 PM



Thank you for posting this. Between the virus and the wind, I didn't even get to attend the graveside.

To his short list of what Uncle Rex said he'd been good at, raising his girls and being a soldier, he can add being an uncle, a giving person, and a nature nurturer.

Very Beautiful singing of Amazing Grace. A Blessing.

Rest in peace, sweet Uncle.

Love.

Always.

Ritagail

Ritagail Burleson - January 16, 2021 at 10:39 AM

PG

“ We had the pleasure of getting to know Rex a couple of times and delighted in his company. He was a kind man and we are very impressed by his military career and his life’s accomplishments. Many warm thoughts to his wonderful family. May your memories of sharing life with him bring you much joy & happiness. Rest In Peace Rex ❤️
Tom & Pamela Gilkey

pamela gilkey - January 15, 2021 at 01:41 PM

JM

“ My great uncle Rex. Wow what can I say! He lived a life dedicated to his family and country. I remember when I was young and he was part of the House of Representatives. I had always thought that was really neat and I had expressed that to him one time while visiting with him. Well to my surprise the next time he came back from a session of Congress he had brought me a autographed picture of the governor and several other legislative items from the state capital. He wasn’t asked to do so and was pretty sure it was most certainly a burden, all the same he did it anyway. When you are ten years old that made me feel as big as the earth! That to me sums up my uncle in a nutshell. He loved his family very much as well as our country! His was a kind soul and will truly be missed by all! Rest In Peace.

Jay Martinez - January 14, 2021 at 02:47 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.



January 14, 2021 at 01:59 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.*



January 14, 2021 at 10:49 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.*



January 13, 2021 at 10:27 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.*



January 13, 2021 at 08:02 AM



“ *Rex was always a good friend to us. I send my sympathy to the family .May God be with you at this time and as you remember him.*

Janet Hadlock - January 12, 2021 at 10:15 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.*



January 11, 2021 at 09:53 PM



“ *Loved spending time with him at the wedding. He always cracked me up. Glad he is in a better place, but he will be missed.*

Colleen Lancey - January 11, 2021 at 07:56 PM



“ *Jay and Tiffany purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.*



Jay and Tiffany - January 11, 2021 at 07:20 PM



“ *A true American Hero in my eyes. Thank you, SIR! for your serve to our Nation. Serving in the Armed Forces is truly one of the greatest gifts you can give to yourself, your family and your community. WELCOME HOME!*

Mike Simmons - January 10, 2021 at 01:13 PM



“ *Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.*



January 06, 2021 at 02:49 PM



“ *Chip&Nancy Crum lit a candle in memory of Donald Rex Crowell*



Chip&Nancy Crum - January 05, 2021 at 09:24 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.*



January 05, 2021 at 06:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald Rex Crowell.*



January 05, 2021 at 02:57 PM



“ *Rest in peace, dear Uncle.*
Love Always, Ritagail

Ritagail Burleson - January 05, 2021 at 12:11 PM