



A proud native of Columbus, Montana, John was one of five children born to John and Teresa Kienitz. Predeceased by his parents, his brothers Henry and Richard, his sister Margaret, and his son Jim. John obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Westmar College and his Masters of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Seminary.

John was a career Army officer who served tours in Vietnam and Germany...among assignments - the 2d ABN BG 504th Inf, 5th SF Group (Airborne) 1st Special Forces (Vietnam), and Special Forces Detachment (ABN) Europe. He had several stateside assignments, including the Presidio of San Francisco. John had a peace time tour in Korea before going to his final military assignment at Fort Drum, New York. His military education included Basic and Career Chaplains courses, Installation Management courses, Airborne School, Special Forces and Counterinsurgency School, and the Command and General Staff College.

After retiring, John lived and worked in San Francisco before moving his family to Rohnert Park where he served as part-time pastor to start a Methodist church - he brought to chartering the St. John's United Methodist Church. John was a volunteer driver for the Rohnert Park Senior Center, was a member of the Rohnert Park Community Band, and was in several of the Rohnert Park (Kitchen) Kut-ups performances, playing his baritone horn. He was Chaplain for several Potentates of the Islam Shrine Temple before becoming Chaplain Emeritus. John was the Commander of the Islam Legion of Honor twice. Memberships included the Bethany Lodge *821 of Black River New York, Disabled American Veterans, MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter, Special Forces Association Chapter XXIII, and the Asiya Shriners.

He was a quiet, private, loving man; often described by his wife as a gentle, gentleman. His quick sense of humor and the twinkle in his eyes will be remembered. John enjoyed eating wursts and sweets (especially chocolate) and enjoyed a cold beer now and then. He loved music and enjoyed watching college and professional football games. John was a faithful Giants baseball fan.

John is survived by his wife Beverly, his daughters Rebecca (Kurt) Mayer, Mary Kienitz (Jim Karkut) and Sara Kienitz; sons John, Jr., (Eve Malle), Timothy, and David (Shawna); grandchildren Tiia Antrim, Elin (Terrence) Bell, Eliza (Justin) Smith, Tristan, Kelsey, and Matthew; great-grandchildren Klara and Annika Bell, and Amelia Smith. He is also survived by his brother Harry (Jeanne), sister-in-law Bethel, many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and by a long time friend, military buddy Dave Hoh (Kay).

Say not in grief that John is no more, but in thankfulness that he was. He said, "Do not mourn me. Remember the good times."