



## Colonel John Arthur McManners

November 24, 1938 - April 22, 2022

Colonel John Arthur McManners, US Army Retired, was born in Weldon, TX, and spent his formative years in Huntsville. He graduated from SHSU in 1962 with a BS in History and went on to have a long and distinguished life of service. John died peacefully at his home in Elkins Lake on April 22, 2022.

Through ROTC, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in Field Artillery, spending his initial tour as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. John retired in 1992 after a 30-year military career which carried him to many parts of the world including Vietnam, Laos, Germany, England, and Bosnia.

During his Laotian tour he was personally recognized by the King of Laos and decorated as a Knight of a Million Elephants, the highest Laotian military honor he could receive. Colonel McManners was the only soldier in the history of the U.S. Army to receive this honor.

John was a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, the United States Army War College, and the United States Air War College. He also held a master's degree from Webster University.

His awards and decorations include Legion of Merit (2); Bronze Star (1); Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1); Meritorious Service Medal (4); Air Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (2); National Defense Service Medal (2); Vietnam Service Medal (1), Army Service Ribbon (1); Overseas Service

Ribbon and Vietnam Campaign Medal. Badges include Senior Parachute Badge and the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB).

John also held other positions of service such as President of the Sam Houston State University Alumni Association, the Mayor's Veterans Affairs Board, and other community activities. He was honored for his dedication with the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Alumni Association Service Award.

John is survived by his wife of 55 years, Geanie Lawhon McManners, of Huntsville, his daughter Shannon McManners of Arlington, VA, and his daughter Kathleen Seleny (Alex) of Fort Worth, TX, and his three grandchildren, Noah Seleny, John Seleny, and Annelise Seleny. Additionally, he is survived by his sister, Mary Ann Lucas (James) of Spring, TX.

Visitation will be held May 8th, 2022, from 5:00-7:00 PM at The Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Drive, Huntsville, TX. Memorial services will be held the following day, May 9th, at 11:00 AM, at the First United Methodist Church located at 1016 Sam Houston Avenue in Huntsville. Burial will be held May 11th at 1:30 PM at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, located at 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX.

A special thank you to Gayla and Bobby Lawson and Yvonne Frederick for the hours they gave to John and Geanie during this difficult time. Their love and care was beyond anything we expected.

In lieu of flowers, please consider celebrating his life through a donation to the SHSU ROTC Scholarship Fund, the Sam Houston Alumni Association or a charity of your choice.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville  
1700 Normal Park Dr  
Huntsville

## Funeral Service

MAY 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Huntsville  
1016 Sam Houston Ave.  
Huntsville, TX 77340

## RECEPTION

MAY 9. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Huntsville  
1016 Sam Houston Ave.  
Huntsville, TX 77340

## Graveside Service

MAY 11. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery  
2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy  
Dallas, TX 75211

# Tribute Wall



“ *Colonel John Arthur McManners*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *The Buckley SFB military Retiree Activities Office (RAO) would like to offer our sincere condolences and our gratitude for Col McManners' 30 years of distinguished service to our country in the Army. If you would like help with any matters related to casualty assistance, Defense Finance & Accounting Service, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Veterans Affairs (VA), etc. you can contact our office on Buckley SFB (Denver, CO) at 720-847-6693. The RAO is staffed by volunteers, all military retirees themselves, and our sole purpose is to provide assistance to any military retirees and surviving spouses/family members with anything related to their military service and/or benefits, in particular during difficult times such as this. We are deeply sorry for your loss.*

*Steve Young  
Lt Col, USAF, Ret  
Director, Buckley SFB RAO*

Steve Young - May 07, 2022 at 03:30 PM



“ *John was a good friend who supported me with great counsel over the years. He leaves a great legacy and I will truly miss him.*

*With sincerest sympathy to Geanie & Family,  
Gerry and Gerald McCoy*

Gerald Mccoy - May 06, 2022 at 04:43 PM

BK

“ LTC McManners was my second Bn Cdr while in the 1/3rd. He saw something in me that allowed me to command as a 1LT. His decision and support shaped my entire 23+ years of service and how I tried to treat my subordinate officers. He treated us all with respect and supported us when we made honest mistakes. Great officer and gentleman.

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**Bart Keiser** - May 05, 2022 at 07:16 PM

DD

“ I will always remember our time together at Fort Hood, Texas. He was my battalion commander and what a commander he was. I am still proud to have served under him as his air defense officer. He did great things there and he allowed me to be a part of that.

*David and Dottie Dowrick*

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**David Dowrick** - May 05, 2022 at 05:52 PM

CA

“ Geanie, Shannon and Kathleen, John and I didn't meet until our final assignment at Ft Sam Houston. We became good friends sharing days off to go job hunting in Austin and Huntsville. As it turned out, we both ended up at the Texas Rehab Commission in Austin. We commuted daily from San Antonio for 4-5 months until I moved the family to Austin. Our time together at the Agency was short lived as John moved back to his home in Huntsville and I went on to a new job in California. As good friends we stayed in contact over the past 30 years.  
*Chuck and Yong-Hee Andrean*

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**Charles Andrean** - May 01, 2022 at 02:03 PM

LW

“ *Was saddened to hear about this longtime friend from Huntsville. Have many memories.*  
*Howard Webb*

Linda Webb - April 30, 2022 at 01:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Colonel John Arthur McManners.*



April 27, 2022 at 07:46 AM

Steve Taylor

“ *Was sad to hear COL Mac has departed this Earth. Truly enjoyed working for, learning from and sharing a special friendship with him. I often think of my time in TID and of the cast of characters (myself included) COL Mac had responsibility for. He was truly a gifted leader and honorable man.*  
*Becky and I will not be able to attend, but we add our prayers for the McManners family and all those traveling to honor his passing.*  
*Steve Taylor*

Steve Taylor - April 25, 2022 at 09:45 PM

MH

“ *M. Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Colonel John Arthur McManners*



M. Hyvl - April 25, 2022 at 06:25 PM

GM

“ On the death of his son, my Great-Grandfather Morton, a traveling Presbyterian Minister in the late 1800’s, recorded in his diary; “We have been made to pass through the waters again” - - - and so it is for me, as I learned I lost another dear and true mentor and friend, COL “Mac”.

*Tears and sadness are with us here on earth; but in heaven “COL Mac” is being welcomed with hugs and kisses by all of his family.*

*At eventide we hear heavenly cries of “Hey John, welcome home, we have been waiting for you. Surely, I hear quiet voices of joy, welcoming John to God’s hands, as he leaves us with only the sighs of our memories.*

*So Geanie, and the entire McManners family - please know you and yours are never truly alone. Your memories of the love of this fine man will enfold you like a comforting blanket.*

*Even as we “pass through the waters again”, we believe angels watch over us and guide us, and now we have another.*

*I am honored COL Mac found it worth his time to be my friend and mentor. My memories of this fine man are funny, touching and lasting.*

*So with a heavy heart today, I remember this fine soldier and honored friend. Rest in Peace.*

*Greg Morton  
TID Family*

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greg morton - April 25, 2022 at 04:01 PM

WK

“ Gentleman and community servant. John was a good friend and we shared many memories of serving SHSU ROTC and Huntsville Veteran Affairs Advisor Board. I will remember his pride of serving his country and community. He and wife Genie blessed this community with their service. Colonel McManners will truly be missed. God bless. Wayne Keen

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**Wayne Keen** - April 25, 2022 at 03:06 PM

LR

“ John was a friend to be cherished, a great travel companion, a happy and genial man that I miss. His family has lost a wonderful person. Linda Rushing

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**Linda Rushing** - April 25, 2022 at 11:31 AM