



## **Patrick Terrance Frank**

05/11/1949 - 02/15/2014

On Saturday, February 15, 2014, Patrick Terrance Frank, 64, passed away peacefully and surrounded by family at home in Winneconne, WI.

Pat was born on the Fort Clayton military base in Ancon, Panama on May 11, 1949, to Sgt. John Frank and Kathleen (Kadlec) Frank, who both lived in the Panama Canal Zone during their terms with the US Army. The family soon returned stateside, being stationed at various places across the country, until John retired after 20 years of service. They moved to Ft. Smith, AR, where John and Kathleen raised Pat and his three brothers: Scott, Michael, and William.

Pat graduated from Southside High School in Fort Smith and enlisted in the United States Army in Little Rock, Arkansas on July 7, 1967. He attended Helicopter Mechanics training in Ft. Eustis, VA, where he specialized in the maintenance and repair of UH-1 - HUEY helicopters. Assigned to A Troop 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, otherwise known as the 1/9th "Headhunters", he arrived in the Republic of Vietnam on February 9, 1968, serving as a helicopter crew chief. By December 18, he achieved the rank of E-5, and in February of 1969, he departed Vietnam. On July 9, 1970, he was honorably discharged and returned to Appleton, WI to be closer to his family.

During his military service he became a qualified marksman of the M14 and M16 and awarded the following citations: Bronze Star, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross.

In September 1971 at a roller-skating rink in Neenah, he met the love of his life, LaVonne (Finger) Frank, and on February 29th of the following year, Leap Year's Day, they were married in front of a small group of friends and family in Appleton. During the next several years, they bought a home in Menasha and started building their family. In May 1989, Pat and LaVonne moved to their home in Winneconne, where they raised three children, a cat, and two dogs during their years together.

Retiring in 2009, Pat was happy to continue in his most revered role, Protector of the Frank House and Defender of Good. Along with being an active member of the Lake Poygan Conservation Club and the Outagamie Conservation Club, he enjoyed collecting historic memorabilia, researching genealogy, listening to and playing music, shooting trap, spending time with family and friends, listening to cowboy poetry, gardening, working on his tractor, attending Vietnam Veteran reunions, and travelling with his beloved wife.

On January 17, 2014, Pat received Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and savior. What followed was a total transformation of heart and spirit. Pat professed sincerely and openly his love of Christ and those around him often in tears. Within a week, his oncologist informed him that

chemotherapy had failed offering home hospice as a last option. Though he was disappointed, Pat's faith never wavered. When subsequently notifying relatives and friends, Pat always began with the good news of his salvation before giving the update of his medical condition. Prior to his final decline, Pat was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, Pat has gone home to heaven, joining the eternal church of believers and community of God.

Pat is survived by his wife, LaVonne, his three children, Erin Flanagan (Peter), Kendra , and Seth (Alicia Frank), brothers Michael (Susan) Frank and William (Susie) Frank, nieces Libby Frank and Randi Shirley, nephews Nolan and Will Frank, and grandchildren Rohan and Frank Flanagan. Pat was preceded in death by his parents John and Kathleen, his brother Scott, his mother-in-law Darlene Backus, several aunts, uncles, and cousins, and many special military brothers. In lieu of flowers, a donation in his name to the A Troop 1/9th Cavalry Reunion Fund is appreciated and can be sent directly to the funeral home.

Services will be held Thursday, February 20 at Mueller Funeral Home at 904 East Main Street in Winneconne, WI. Visitation will begin at 4:00 p.m., followed by Military Honors at 6:00 p.m. and memorial service to follow.