



George Edward Cassady

May 16, 1940 - November 10, 2019

CASSADY - Surrounded by his loving family and under the gentle care of Community Hospice, Major (ret.) George Edward Cassady, 79, passed away on Sunday, November 10, 2019 at his home on Black Creek in Middleburg, FL.

George Edward was born at home, by midwife, on May 16, 1940 in Atmore, AL. One of three children, to the parents of Jack and Kitty Cassady, he would proudly spend his childhood in the Lower Alabama area attending Baldwin County High School in Bay Minette, AL before dropping out in 10th grade to join the United States Army.

Enlisting in 1957, at the age of 17, George spent the first eight years of his Army career as an enlisted man with assigned duties in Fort Jackson, Korea, Fort McClellan, Hawaii and then to Ft. Benning where he served with the 2nd Infantry Division.

In 1967, George received orders for Vietnam, being assigned as an advisor to a South Vietnamese unit. During his tour in Vietnam, George was wounded by a booby-trapped Viet Cong hand grenade that cost him his right eye and a lengthy stay at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. George was awarded the Purple Heart on September 9, 1967.

George should be an inspiration to us all. While in the Army, he earned his State Certificate of High-School Equivalency in 1960 and worked towards his AA degree by attending night classes for over five years. Because of his perseverance to take college courses, George was selected by the Army to participate in the Degree Completion Program. He graduated with senior honors with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Economics from the University of Tampa in 1972. He would continue to earn countless medals, awards and promotions until his retirement in 1977.

One of his proudest accomplishments while in the Army was being a part of the Officer Candidate School Class of 1965. He is quoted later in life as saying, "OCS helped define my life and influenced me to be the person I am today." He maintained those brotherly bonds until his final days.

George proudly served "his" Army for 20 years, retiring in July 1977. The education and experiences he received in the Army would prepare him for his thirty-four-year career at

BCBS of Florida.

George was hired at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSFL) in June 1977 starting as a management development specialist. He quickly moved up the ladder being selected for task forces to help improve relations amongst departments, and later leading a team that would include the company's top executives.

While working during the day, George would find himself back in college on nights and weekends taking classes to earn his master's degree. He graduated with a master's degree in Management and Organization Effectiveness from Central Michigan University at NAS Jax.

In 1981, George was promoted to Director of Training and Development and in 1983 was promoted to one of his most important roles as Vice President of Human Resources; he held this position until 1989. He finished his career at BCBSFL as Vice President of Organization Development and Planning. He would remain in that role until his retirement on January 1, 2003. Not able to stay away, he would consult with BCBSF for seven more years; officially retiring in 2011.

George considered his colleagues at BCBSFL his second family. He held in such high regard the executives he had the privilege of working with; Bill Flaherty, Mike Cascone and Dr. Bob Lufrano. He truly cared for all those he was called to manage, train and mentor. He has been recently called "the heart of the organization" by those who had the honor of working with him.

George will continue to be loved by so many. He was called "My Special Angel" by his loving wife of 41 years, Mary Beth, "Dad" by his six children; George Cassady (Rebecca), Renee Carr (Bob), Edward Cassady (Kelly), Carol Parry (Kenny), Jason Cassady, and Patrick Cassady (Kristine), "Pop" by his 21 grandchildren, "Uncle George" by his 100 plus nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews and "George Edward" by his devoted brother, Tolbert Cassady (Janette).

George would like to be remembered by his family and friends as being dedicated to them, as someone who was always concerned about their happiness and welfare, as someone always proud and pleased of their accomplishments in life, and as a role model for family and friends to emulate.

A Graveside Service will be held on Friday, November 22, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery with Full Military Honors.

A celebration of George's life will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 11:00am Middleburg United Methodist Church, 3925 Main Street, Middleburg, FL, with reception to follow the service in the Family Life Center adjacent to the church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in his honor to a charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Corey-Kerlin Funeral Home, 940 Cesery Blvd., Jacksonville, FL. 904-744-8422.

Cemetery

Jacksonville National Cemetery

4083 Lannie Rd
Jacksonville, FL, 32218

Events

NOV 22 **Committal Service with Military Honors** 01:00PM

Jacksonville National Cemetery
4083 Lannie Rd, Jacksonville, FL, US, 32218

Comments



“ Summer of 1968, Ft. Benning, GA. George was my boss in my last job in the Army. My job was short term in the runout of my service time after returning from the war, so I didn't get to know George for as long as I would have liked. Then we lost touch. I remember him well as an exceedingly kind, thoughtful and decent man. Always smiling, always upbeat and positive. All the office staff adored him. Indeed a friend to all who knew him. The day before I was to leave the Army, George wrote a 'Letter of Appreciation' to me for the way I had done my job. He said some very nice and good things that I could only hope my performance matched. I was and still am very deeply touched by that letter and I will always keep it. In recent years, since there has been the internet, I have periodically done searches for him just so I could say hello and thank him again for the kindness of that letter written so many years ago. Nothing came up in those searches until this week in the form of the obituary notice. I am very saddened by what has happened and my thoughts and best wishes are with his family and friends who are many.

JK

JK - December 29, 2019 at 02:04 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of George Edward Cassady.



November 22, 2019 at 04:09 PM



“ Your Hillsborough County EPMO Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of George Edward Cassady.



Your Hillsborough County EPMO Family - November 22, 2019 at 10:55 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George Edward Cassady.



November 21, 2019 at 07:54 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George Edward Cassady.



November 21, 2019 at 11:27 AM



“ If it were not for George, I wouldn't be here in Jacksonville today. I was getting ready to retire from the Army in Atlanta in 1991. Thanks to a mutual friend of ours, George invited me down for an interview at Blue Cross in April 1991. A short time later, I got an offer letter, moved up my retirement date, and moved down to Jacksonville. George took me under his wing and assigned me to work with one of the executive teams and coached and mentored me throughout my tenure at Blue Cross. As mentioned by others in their memories, George was one of the kindest, most selfless people I have ever met. We remained friends after our retirement from Blue Cross and I will miss him and his kind spirit. I pray that God's grace may be with Mary Beth and the whole Cassady clan during this very difficult time.

Brian Mickley - November 19, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of George Edward Cassady.



November 18, 2019 at 11:11 AM



“ Dear, sweet George Cassady.
Always a happy, kind and gentle soul. Always greeting you with a big hug and a kiss. Always smiling, because he loved his life.
Marybeth, you two were the epitome of the happy, gentle grandparents to all of our kids. There are so many that you both adopted as your own, and we are all very lucky to have had both of you for as many years as we have. Thank you for sharing your lives with our families. Thank you for opening your homes to all of us and our kids. You watched them grow up and become the people they are today. You saw some of their first steps, first teeth, first days of school....thank you for being my children's other grandparents to love.
He will be missed by many, as he was loved by all who knew him.
God bless you, Marybeth, and your entire, beautiful family.
With so much love,
Lisa and Erik Dobrie
Lauren, Lindsay, Leanne and Erik

Lisa Dobrie - November 18, 2019 at 11:00 AM



“ Dear Cassady Family, we were so sorry to hear of your loss of such a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. George was such a sweet, amazing man that produced a sweet and amazing family. Hold on to the wonderful memories he made with you all. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you.
, Love & Blessings,
Jim and Lilly Hartle

Lilly Hartle - November 17, 2019 at 06:42 PM



“ Dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer October 17, 2018. Reflecting back on this past year, I am amazed at how dad continued to live his life and enjoy his family and friends as much as he was physically able.



Carol Cassady Parry - November 15, 2019 at 10:56 AM



“ Dear Mary Beth, We will always have fond memories of George. One great memory was seeing George so handsome in his military uniform walking Carol down the aisle to marry Ken. This is when we became family. George will always be remembered as kind, generous and truly a wonderful man. He will truly be missed, but will always be in our hearts. Love and prayers to you and your beautiful family. God Bless You, Bill and Shirley and Family.

Shirley Parry - November 15, 2019 at 06:04 AM



“ George hired me for my first Human Resources management job in Florida at Blue Cross Blue Shield. He was a great role model, mentor and advisor. He guided me through successfully interacting with the Board of Directors, the executive team and the employee population. He had a great sense of humor and a very caring attitude toward others. I learned a lot from him.

Kathy Orr

Kathy Orr - November 14, 2019 at 09:05 PM



“ Mr. Cassady was one of the sweetest men I have ever known. I will always cherish the fun times with spent at the Lakehouse. Thank for for the hospitality you always showed by allowing us to gather and create so many memories at Cherry Lake. You will be greatly missed by so many. May his memory be eternal and I pray you find peace in the beautiful memories.

God bless you all,

Sireen Bateh

Sireen Bateh - November 14, 2019 at 04:42 PM



“ George hired me at Blue Cross and Blue Shield in 1999 and was a friend and mentor for my entire career there. I learned so much from George and am a better person for having known him. My heart goes out to Mary Beth and the family. George's spirit will live on in the many, many people he's impacted and influenced over his very successful life. He will be missed.

Kathleen Zwart - November 14, 2019 at 01:28 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of George Edward Cassady.



November 14, 2019 at 12:38 PM



“ I worked with George for many years at Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He was my mentor and I truly would not be where I am today without him guiding and teaching me. George is one of the most caring and kind individuals and his wife and family were always top priority for him. I grew to have a wonderful friendship with George and was fortunate to spend a short time with him and his family a few weeks ago. He was in good spirits and we shared so many awesome memories! I will miss him greatly! I'm sure he will be meeting with Al Washington and Wally Lonergan in the hospitality suite in heaven!

Love you,

Deedra Harris (a.k.a. Dakota) - another inside joke :)

Deedra Harris - November 13, 2019 at 09:50 AM



“ I was working in the Training and Development Department at BCBSFL when George was first hired. It was apparent from the start that he was no ordinary man and colleague. He would go on to become a great mentor and friend and I built the foundation of my career in Management Training and Executive Development on what I learned from him and the others in that department. George and his generosity of spirit and knowledge was a gift to all of us.

I well remember the day he came in to the back room where we had our desks and told us about this wonderful woman he had met, Mary Beth. I remember when her sister Joan asked me about this guy George Cassady and wanted to know what he was really like. It was a match made in heaven when these two souls found each other and built a life together. He was such a blessing and touched the lives of so many. Thank you, Major Cassady.

"Rest eternal grant to George, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the departed through the mercy of God rest in peace."
Amen

With gratitude,

Barbara Maginness Filoromo

Barbara Filoromo - November 12, 2019 at 05:16 PM



“ I will never forget \$20 George. (Inside joke, Marybeth will explain)

Rick Nelson - November 12, 2019 at 03:12 PM