



## COL Joe David McDowell

July 15, 1949 - March 10, 2017

COL (Ret) Joe David McDowell was born July 15, 1949 to the late Walter D. and Carmen L. (Ewing) in Muncie, Indiana. He died March 10, 2017 in Tavares, Florida. He graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1967. In 1968, Joe joined the Michigan Army National Guard and graduated from Officer Candidate school in 1977. In 1978, Joe married the love of his life, Cynthia. In 1985 he received a BA in Human Resources Management from Spring Arbor College and in 1988 a Masters of Public Administration from Western Michigan University. In 1999 he graduated from the US Army War College. During Joe's remarkable 36 year military career, he served as platoon, company, and battalion commanders, Director of Surface Maintenance and Director of Human Resources. He retired in 2005 at the rank of Colonel. Joe served the City of Grand Ledge as a city councilman from 1990-92. After retirement, Joe and Cindy built a winter home in Tavares, Florida. They moved there permanently in 2014.

Joe was an avid University of Michigan and Detroit Tigers fan. He also loved spending time on his boat and walking his dogs. His children and grandchildren were his pride and joy; he loved to brag about them to anyone who would listen.

Joe is survived by his wife of 38 years, Cynthia; children Michael (Jane), Meghan (Eric) Morris and Ryan; grandchildren Brittney Reich, Mariko Martin, Tyler Harding, Isla, Annalise, Azalea and Zinnia Morris; sisters Jan (Rich) Krajniak and Joan (John) Pedraza and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles

and cousins. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Rd., Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256. A memorial service will be held on May 22, 2017 at 11 am at Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home in Grand Ledge. Visitation will be Sunday from 2-4 pm at the funeral home. Internment with military honors will follow at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **21**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
406 N. Bridge Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
(517) 627-2531  
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com  
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

## Service

MAY **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
406 N. Bridge Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of COL Joe David McDowell*



Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home - May 30, 2017 at 08:36 AM

MF

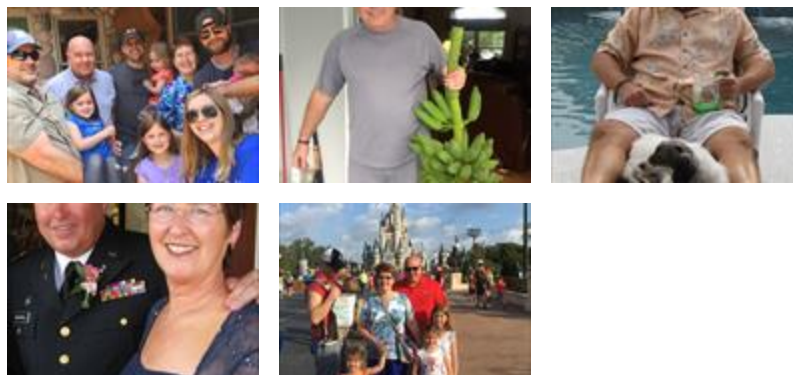
“ *Much love, Don and Carol Wotring and Family purchased the Chinese Dogwood Tree for the family of COL Joe David McDowell.*



Much love, Don and Carol Wotring and Family - May 22, 2017 at 07:27 PM



“ *61 files added to the album Joe*



Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home - May 19, 2017 at 02:10 PM

CW

“ Carol Wotring lit a candle in memory of COL Joe David McDowell



Carol Wotring - March 17, 2017 at 10:05 AM

CW

“ Cindy and Family, our deepest condolences to you! You are in our thoughts and prayers. Even though I was a civilian worker under Joe for several years, he was always good to me. It was fun to see the Col sharing pictures of his kids and grandkids. Wishing you God's blessings in the days ahead. Love from Don & Carol Wotring

Carol Wotring - March 17, 2017 at 10:04 AM

JC

“ Cindy, our deepest sympathy to you and your family on Joe's passing. We'll miss seeing Joe walking the dogs in our Royal Harbor community. He was always ready to stop and chat and most importantly, listen. We'll especially miss his friendly smile and soft spoken voice. Rest in peace Col. Joe.  
Janet and Ron Cairo  
Tavares, Florida

Janet and Ron Cairo - March 17, 2017 at 07:18 AM

JK

“ Cindy, you and your family are in my prayers. My favorite memories of you and Joe are of how you guys always supported Jim and I at NGAM conferences. 🙏❤️🇺🇸🙏  
Love and Hugs  
Joyce Klynstra

Joyce Klynstra - March 14, 2017 at 10:29 PM

DG

“ *My condolences to the family. Thank you for your sacrifices and service to our country COL Joe David McDowell. Rest in peace.-  
Dina Gross*

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**Dina Gross** - March 14, 2017 at 10:01 PM

MD

“ *As the CSMS Superintendent, Col. McDowell received a visit from a group of Latvian Nationals who at the time was doing a shared partnership training exercise with The Michigan National Guard. It was the middle of the summer and they had just left Headquarters and headed our way. As the Association President Joe came to me and asked if we had enough refreshments for the visit. "No problem" I replied, we had just grocery shopped the day before. What he didn't convey to me was 8-10 men wearing full Class "A" WOOL uniforms in 100 degree weather. Those men walked through our break room door and the sweat poured from there faces. Now these were prideful soldiers, they simply couldn't remove their jackets, NO, that would be a insult to the uniform. Joe and I looked at each other and we knew we were in trouble. Of all the liquids we carried, they wiped us out of the Vernors? Really Vernors? Cleaned us out every last drop, I'm surprised we didn't run out of city water. But the soldiers survived, thanked us, and marched on. The Colonel turned to me and said.. "Don't worry Mike, I'll pay for it. I told him don't worry we can recover, but that was the kind of man he was. Sir, I appreciate everything you did for me in my career, take charge up there.....*

*Mike (retired)*

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**Mike Davis** - March 14, 2017 at 10:21 AM

DH

*COL McDowell was such a pleasure to know as a fellow soldier, boss, friend and mentor. The memories of him will be cherished forever, and he'll be dearly missed. RIH Colonel! God bless you, and thoughts and prayers go out to your family.*

*Dawn Holmes (retired)*

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**Dawn Holmes** - March 14, 2017 at 10:43 PM

GS

“ *Every memory I have of Joe is a great one. Rest in place Colonel Joe. You will be missed.*

*Grant Smith*

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**Grant Smith** - March 13, 2017 at 07:48 PM

BL

“ *I knew Joe well and he was a great man my grandfather knew him as well and only spoke of great things about him. The thing I will miss most about him is how he was such a good and loving father those kids of his loved him to death and he loved them even though sometimes it was hard to tell because if you don't know Joe very he had a very tough exterior but the softest heart. Joe is going to be missed more than he will ever know. I love you McDowell family.*

*Love you always Joe,  
Brad Lundquist*



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**Brad Lundquist** - March 13, 2017 at 06:35 PM

MM

“ Cindy, I am not sure if you remember me or not from school, but I just heard about your loss. I am so very sorry to hear of this. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time and in the days to follow. Hold your memories close and he will always be in your heart

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**marilyn mcwhinney** - March 13, 2017 at 12:32 PM

CM

Cindy and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you. This loss of Joe is so hard for any of us to get a hold of it. He was such a wonderful cousin, father. Grandfather and husband to you. We love you and he is now with the Lord.love you Carol & Phillip Merrill

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**Carol Merrill** - March 13, 2017 at 06:26 PM

DM

“ Dear Cindy and Family: You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Joe will be deeply missed. Wishing you all God's healing powers. God Bless.  
David & Robbin Milligan

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**David & Robbin Milligan** - March 13, 2017 at 09:09 AM

ER

I am very sorry for your loss,my thoughts and prayers are with you and family, 1SG. E,A. RECK UTES FORT CUSTER

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**ERIC A. RECK** - March 13, 2017 at 06:09 PM