



LTC Kenneth H. Geiger USA, Retired

August 28, 2022 | Died in Raleigh, NC



Kenneth Homer "Ken" Geiger was a loving husband, father and stepfather, as well as a true gentleman, scholar, and soldier.

Ken was born on August 14, 1937 in Detroit, MI to Daniel and Helen Geiger as the eldest of their three boys. He would remain in his hometown until graduating from Cass Technical High School in 1955. While at Cass, he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel in the ROTC unit while also being active on the school's newspaper staff, theater stage crew, and Junior Red Cross unit. He also served as assistant Scoutmaster for a local Boy Scout troop (he himself achieved Eagle Scout status).



Ken enlisted in the Army immediately after graduation with the objective of gaining sufficient experience to enable him to become a member of the Detroit police department after his military commitment was satisfied. He soon found himself in California at Fort Ord, where he experienced the rigors of basic training as part of the heavy mortar company, 1st Infantry Regiment. Upon completion of basic training, Ken's parents were elated to receive a letter from the commanding officer informing them that their son was recognized as one of the 10 most outstanding trainees by the officers and cadremen from his company.

While serving in Korea as a private first class in 1957, Ken was very excited to learn that he had been appointed to USMA by Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr., who represented Michigan's 13th District. A few months later, the trajectory of Ken's life, and certainly his ambitions, would shift dramatically as he began his academic career at the United States Military Academy Prep School at West Point. Here, according to Ken, he "got a head start at getting to know a number of people who would be a part of me for the rest of my life." While at West Point, he enjoyed participating in the Pistol, Ski, and German Language clubs, as well as being a member of the Scoutmaster Council and the Howitzer yearbook staff.

Ken's first assignment after West Point was with the 24th Signal Battalion. He then served at Fort Monmouth, NJ (Signal School, TSS Advanced Course); Boston, MA (Northeastern University student); Fort Monroe, VA (U.S. Army Combat Development Experimentation Center); Washington, DC (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, International Conference of Computer Vision); Alexandria, VA (Operational Test & Evaluation Agency); Pentagon (Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel); and Washington, DC (George Washington University student). Ken served on active duty in the Army Signal Corps for 22 years and retired in 1981 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

After leaving the Army, Ken had a successful career as a system engineer and programmer at Satellite Business Systems

and then at IBM in Alexandria; Austin, TX; and Raleigh, NC. Shortly after his military retirement, he also met future wife Joan at a neighborhood get-together, where they bonded over a common love of dogs. They each had Miniature Schnauzers. Joan would soon become the love of his life and Ken of hers. They were married in 1983. Ken also began what would become a successful quest to gain the love and respect of his four new stepchildren through his steadfast demonstration of the resilience, endurance, and patience honed during his years in the Army. He became a positive and treasured influence in their lives.

As the family grew, he would achieve the same with his 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

The passion for learning that Ken's time in the Army encouraged and nourished would remain with him for the rest of his life. In addition to the B.S. degree from USMA, he also achieved two Master of Science degrees: one in industrial technology from Northeastern University in Boston and the other in information systems technology from George Washington University in Washington, DC. He also picked up many computer language certifications over the years and spent countless evenings deeply engaged in technical computer language books.

His appetite for knowledge extended beyond academia and computers. While assigned to the Pentagon, he took sailing classes on weekends and obtained a commercial sailboat captaincy accreditation. He also continued to pursue an interest in electronic communications developed in the Signal Corps. He was a licensed ham radio operator and an enthusiastic collector of the hobby's associated gadgetry (a little too enthusiastic per wife Joan). He enjoyed being an early adopter of the latest technical hardware while having a hard time letting go of the older stuff.

Ken very much enjoyed his time at USMA and was proud to be a member of the Long Gray Line and for having served his country. He credited West Point and the Army with having had a profound and affirmative impact on his life and greatly appreciated the many friendships, opportunities, adventures, and fond memories that resulted from his time in each. He enjoyed seeing the world on behalf of the Army and often shared fond recollections of the places he had experienced including Germany, Korea, California, and the Washington, DC area.

Ken and Joan's wedded bliss would last for 39 years, until his passing on August 28, 2022 at home in Raleigh. He is survived by family members, including his wife, Joan; brother, Daniel; daughter, Corinn; stepchildren: Roy, Melisa, Mechele, and Megan, as well as their significant others; 14 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

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