

SFC (Ret) William C. 'Bill' Gratten

August 15, 1936 - February 12, 2011



Age 74, Lawton - Funeral Mass will be at 12:30 pm, Thursday at Grierson Hill Chapel with Father Wilkes and Father Madu officiating. Sergeant Gratten died Saturday in Lawton, OK. A rosary will be at Becker Memorial Chapel on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Interment with full military honors will follow at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin Oklahoma under direction of Becker Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

He was born August 15, 1936, in Brooklyn, New York to John and Doris (Clifton) Gratten. Bill was raised and attended school in Fall River, Massachusetts. Bill enlisted in the Massachusetts Army National Guard in 1953; from there he entered the US Air Force in January 1955. While in the Air Force Bill was stationed at Bitburg and Fuerstenfeldbruck Germany. While in Fuerstenfeldbruck he met and married his wife of 52 years Barbara (Betty) Sanktjohanser. The newlywed couple came to the United States in 1958 and set up housekeeping in Fall River, Massachusetts. Bill enlisted again in the National Guard and then entered the Regular Army in 1961. Bill served in Utah, Vietnam, Texas, Louisiana and numerous times in Germany. Bill retired at Fort Polk, Louisiana, January 1980 after a total of 27 years military service. Bill continued to serve his country working Civil Service at Fort Polk. Bill retired from Civil Service in 2000. Bill and Betty moved to Lawton in the spring of 2007.

Bill received a number of commendations while in the military including the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/Palm, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Good Conduct Medal Seventh Award, Drivers Badge/ Wheel Bar, Expert Rifle Badge and 2 Overseas service bars.

Bill served his church as a member of the Knights of Columbus and his fellow veterans as an active member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and several other veteran organizations. Bill and Betty were faithful in their attendance in welcoming soldiers returning from deployment and saying goodbye to deploying soldiers.

Survivors include Betty, his wife of the home; daughters Ingrid Glanzer and her husband Alan Joe Glanzer of Cache and Diana Boyd and her husband Will of Lawton, as well as grand children, Nickolas Glanzer and wife Sharon, of Ft Meade, MD, Steven Glanzer and his wife Carrie of Cache; and Corey Boyd of Weatherford, OK and great-grandchildren, Dana, Kaylie, James Thomas, Gracie, Alivia, and Michael and special friend, Sissie. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Step father Robert J Bell and his sister Gale. Family asks that memorial contributions be made to Vietnam Veterans Association, Chapter 751, 1004 SW B Ave., Lawton, OK 73501 or Hospice of Southwest Oklahoma, PO Box 2074, Lawton, OK 73502.