



Col. (Ret) Richard Pittman Scheff

July 28, 1935 - March 2, 2023

Col. (Ret) Richard Pittman Scheff

7/28/1935 - 3/2/2023

Col. (Ret) Richard P. (Pitt) Scheff died on March 2, 2023. He did not “pass away” as some would say; he was a very direct man who did not care for that term. Col. Scheff died, surrounded by love, with his wife of 64 years and his four children beside him.

Col. Scheff was preceded in death by his parents, Leal Mallory Scheff and Claire Louise Pittman Scheff, and his brother, Joseph Herbert Scheff. He is survived by his wife, Elva Joan Rogers Scheff, his children Susan Scheff Wells (Don), Richard Pittman Scheff, Jr. (Maria), Charles Edward Scheff (Beth), and Virginia (Ginny) Goss (John), and by 13 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Col. Scheff grew up in Cedartown and Rockmart, Georgia, and attended North Georgia College on a basketball scholarship, where he also played baseball. He earned his law degree from Tulane University, and served in the US Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps for 30 years. Following his retirement from the Army he attended West Georgia College, where he earned his Masters in Public Administration, and moved to Milledgeville, Georgia, where he taught political science, public administration and criminal justice at Georgia College

& State University.

Col. Scheff served five tours overseas, including Vietnam, where he was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, France, and three tours in Germany. He fondly remembered volksmarching in Germany, and other travels throughout Europe. He loved reading to elementary school students in the Baldwin County Schools, serving as Santa Claus during the Christmas season, boating with his grandchildren, his dog Charley, and his friends. Most of all, he loved his family and loved spending time with his family, and they with him.

Services will be held at Williams Funeral Home, 1670 N. Jefferson St., Milledgeville, Georgia, at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, March 10, with visitation at 1:00 P.M. the same day. Burial will be at Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Monday, March 13. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Wounded Warrior Project, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital might also be considered.

Cemetery Details

Georgia Veteran's Memorial Cemetery

2617 Vinson Hwy
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 10. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville
1670 N. Jefferson St.
Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-2148
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

Funeral Service

MAR 10. 2:00 PM (ET)

Williams Funeral Home & Crematory - Milledgeville
1670 N. Jefferson St.
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Tribute Wall



“ Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory created a Webcast will start approximately 10 minutes before the service in memory of Col. (Ret) Richard Pittman Scheff



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - March 10, 2023 at 12:19 PM



“ Warren F. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Col. (Ret) Richard Pittman Scheff.



Warren F. - March 27, 2023 at 06:44 PM



“ 57 files added to the album Life Tributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - March 09, 2023 at 04:31 PM

“Pitt Scheff was a man in full. The author Tom Wolfe uses that phrase to describe a man who filled the room, who was accomplished and supremely competent, and who would stand up to the nonsense in the surrounding world. The phrase perfectly fits the man who Pitt Scheff was.

Pitt was a very important person to his department at Georgia College. He was hired because of his vast legal background to teach a variety of law-based courses in our political science, public administration, and criminal justice programs. I don't think he had ever taught a full course before he joined us in the early 1990s, but he took to the art and science of teaching like a natural. He demanded the best from his students, and he usually got it. His encyclopedic knowledge of legal procedure, both military and civilian, and of Supreme Court decisions was awesome to behold. He was an understanding person, but in class he would tolerate no soft, wishful, mushy thinking. Students were expected to think like a lawyer, to get to the essential facts of a case, and to apply those facts to the law, both as written and as interpreted over time. He very quickly showed us all that he was a master teacher. Although he joined us to teach, he consented to take on an onerous administrative task for a vital period of time when he became coordinator of the Master of Public Administration program in the mid-90s. Under his leadership, the department successfully went through national accreditation for the first time, an enormous administrative undertaking. At the time, we were the smallest institution in the country to win full accreditation for its MPA program. Pitt's impact was massive.

I think everyone knows what a wonderful person and friend Pitt Scheff was. However, I'm not sure his importance to his department, his academic colleagues, and his students is as well known. His friends and family should know about that. At his retirement, he left a gigantic footprint on our programs, and he was sorely missed. After more than forty years of public service, he had surely earned a meaningful retirement—and he excelled at that as well!

*May he rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him.
Rosemary and I extend our sincere condolences to the family that
Pitt so deeply loved and about whom he was so proud.*

Mike Digby - March 09, 2023 at 09:56 AM

PH

“ *I served under Col. Scheff, first as the Chief of Administrative Law and then as his Deputy when he was the V Corps SJA in Frankfurt, Germany. He was one of the most influential and mentoring bosses I ever had. While he always had my back, he routinely had me do the SJA office visits with the V Corps commander, a 3 star general, and represent the office at staff calls -- he saw these as the best way to prepare me to succeed. A true southern gentleman, his humor and charm are nor found in many today.*
Patrick K Hargus

Patrick K Hargus - March 07, 2023 at 11:13 PM

DC

“ *I always liked Pitt. He was a man of principle. He would speak his mind and not tolerate any BS, plus he had a great sense of humor.*

Dennis Coupe - March 07, 2023 at 09:48 PM

JM

“ *Pit was a classmate of mine and a true friend. We always enjoyed a good joke.*

jim Mundt - March 07, 2023 at 07:54 PM

EU

“ I tried several cases in front of Judge Scheff when he was a visiting judge at Fort Benning. Also saw him in Germany. A true Southern gentleman and an outstanding military judge.

Everett Urech - March 07, 2023 at 06:26 PM

DF

“ I had Colonel Scheff as a professor for many classes while completing my undergraduate degree at Georgia College. He was always one of my favorite professors. Colonel Scheff was such a talented teacher! My sincere condolences to Colonel Scheff's family.

Donna W. Findley - March 07, 2023 at 08:46 AM

PO

“ What a great man, father, grandfather and great grandfather! Colonel Scheff was also a military officer that I looked up to. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Parri Olmstead - March 06, 2023 at 05:35 PM

MH

“ He was a nice Man. When he would call his friend Wayne I would answer the phone hello. He would call me Jason. So I called him the other Jason. You will be missed Rev.21:4

Mary Frances Hatchett - March 06, 2023 at 03:10 PM

RG

“ We remember COL Scheff from our time growing up in Heidelberg with his daughter and son in law. We feel this loss with all our hearts and are sending you love and toasting Col Scheff for his service and life well lived. Patrick and Renee Ginn and family

Renee Ginn - March 06, 2023 at 01:31 PM