



## Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance

January 2, 1945 - June 17, 2018

Colonel Richard Torrance age 73, of Milledgeville died peacefully in his home on June 17, 2018. Services will be held at 12:30 PM on Thursday June 21, 2018, at Williams Funeral Home with Rev. David Perry and Al Burgamy officiating. Burial will follow with full military honors at the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Born in Milledgeville on January 2, 1945 to C.W. and Elene Maroney Torrance, Colonel Torrance graduated from Baldwin High School in 1963 and North Georgia College in 1967. Commissioned that year in the U.S Army he served for six years including service in Viet Nam as a helicopter pilot in the 101st Airborne Division where he earned several medals for bravery, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and Air Medal.

Following his discharge, he joined the Georgia Army National Guard and worked as the Commandant of Cadets at Georgia Military College, as a private businessman, and for the U.S. Postal Service as a Rural Route Carrier. He returned to active duty in 1985 and served honorably at several posts across the United States until he retired at the rank of Colonel in 1999. During this time, he commanded the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, Georgia Army National Guard.

Upon retiring from the Army, he returned to Milledgeville and entered the cattle

business, raising cows and growing hay on the farm where he grew up. Richard never met a stranger and was known for helping anyone he came in contact with. He was active in the local community; serving on the Baldwin County Tax Board of Assessors and as an elected member of the Piedmont District of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Larry, and a sister, Dee Dee Lee.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years Melvis, and four sons Jim (Teresa), Greg (Devie), Jeff, and Dan (Kellee); a brother Grady (Frances) all of Milledgeville, and sister Rachel of Monticello; five grandchildren: Arrah Torrance, Nathan Torrance, Kaden Torrance, Sadie Torrance, and Hadley Torrance; three great grandchildren: Callie, Jordan, and Eli. He is also survived by a number of nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at on Wednesday June 20, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Williams Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Black Springs Baptist Church, the Georgia Military College Foundation, or the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Georgia Veteran's Memorial Cemetery

2617 Vinson Hwy  
Milledgeville, GA 31061

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 20.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

**JUN 21.** 12:30 PM (ET)

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

## Graveside Services

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JUN 21. 2:30 PM (ET)

Georgia Veteran's Memorial Cemetery  
2617 Vinson Hwy  
Milledgeville, GA 31061

# Tribute Wall

C(

“ *Saddened by the passing of a good man , father , soldier and friend. Richard was Aviation Section Leader at Ft Hood , Texas and I was one of his helicopter pilots. Though I hadn't had contact with him in years there will always be fond memories and respect for this man.*

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**CW-4 Gary Donaldson (Ret)** - June 06, 2020 at 07:30 PM

SJ

“ *Dear Melvis,  
I just learned of Richard's passing. I am so sorry for you and your family's loss.  
Richard was my roommate our 1st year at North Georgia College and I was unable to lead him down any wayward paths. I always looked forward to seeing you both at reunion and am so proud of the many people he has mentored.  
We have you all in our prayers  
Scott & Cindy Johnson*

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**Scott Johnson** - December 09, 2018 at 04:08 PM

NF

“ *Dear Torrance family,  
I'm so sorry to just have learned of Richard's passing. I just want to tell y'all he was a wonderful person. He made life a much better place!!!!!! I have so many great memories of riding horses at your house. Please know I have you in my thoughts and prayers!  
With deepest sympathy,  
Nancy Gercken Floyd*



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**Nancy G Floyd** - September 20, 2018 at 08:25 AM

CD

“ Melvis, I am so sorry for your loss. I didn't know Richard, but from reading all the comments he was quite a man. It is obvious that he did a lot of positive things in his life that influenced others. That he made you and the boys proud. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Cindy Dennard

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**Cindy Dennard** - July 02, 2018 at 12:47 PM

JG

“ Richard Torrance was a great friend to my family and especially to my father LtCol. John R. Grimes. Richard and Melvis made a special trip to Huntsville to visit my father, was present at my father's funeral and presented the flag to us at my mother's funeral. He was a great help to us in the cattle business and a friend to our family. We will miss him greatly.

*John & Karen Grimes*

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**John P Grimes** - June 25, 2018 at 02:24 PM

AM

“ So sorry for your lost. Our family is praying for you all. May God comfort and encourage you through this time.

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**Anna and Tony Mayo** - June 24, 2018 at 07:15 PM

 Joe Bellflower

“ Melvis and family, we are deeply saddened to learn of Richard's passing. We wish for you the strength to face the days ahead and loving memories that last forever. A good man is now in the arms of the Lord. We will keep each of you in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Joe Bellflower** - June 23, 2018 at 08:38 PM

CG

“ Years ago when a group of us (including Keith Epps and Andy Burgamy) were involved in Motocross for adults and kids I kept hearing the sound of a helicopter, looked up and it was tilted to the side, doors open and you could see an extended arm waving up and down, it was Richard buzzing the Motocross track, pretty darn cool, I'd never experienced anything like that before.

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**Christine Greene** - June 22, 2018 at 05:34 PM

LM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you now and in the days ahead. May God provide the peace, comfort, and strength you need as you continue your special and unique journey through life. Blessings to each member of the Torrance family.

*Linda (Archer) and Fred Morrison*

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**Linda & Fred Morrison** - June 21, 2018 at 09:32 PM



BS

“ Rambo was one of my hero's in life. I joined the National Guard because of Richard. I wanted to be just like him, but he was one of a kind. A great man that will be surely missed.

*Bob Simmons*

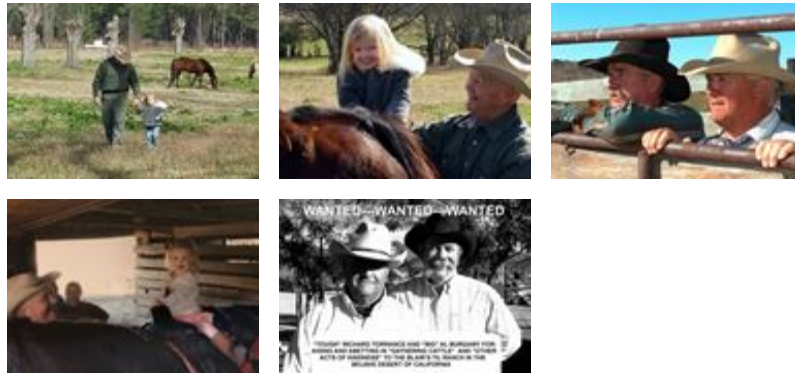
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**Bob Simmons** - June 20, 2018 at 02:09 PM





“ 56 files added to the album Life Tributes



Williams Funeral Homes and Crematory - June 20, 2018 at 01:34 PM

BC

“ *Melvis and family. Love and prayers. We will always remember him, especially his superb character, courage, and good sense of humor both during and after the Vietnam War. May he Rest In Peace. God Bless You All. Bob Clewell, Lucian and Katie, and Paul*

Bob Clewell - June 20, 2018 at 10:44 AM

LL

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Louise Hall Layson*

Louise Layson - June 20, 2018 at 10:27 AM

BH

“ *Melvis, My deepest sympathy to you and your family. A great man, a true individual, that I personally have admired and respected has moved on to be with his Lord. He will be missed by many. Rest in Peace my FRIEND, Bill Harrington*

Bill Harrington - June 20, 2018 at 10:14 AM

GM

“ Col. Torrance was a mentor to me and helped steer the direction of my life. His quiet strength and character were unmatched. Greg and I were friends and created some good memories. Mrs. Torrance always made me feel at home when I visited and I will never forget her kindness. So, it is with a heavy heart that I express my appreciation for one of the “pillars” in my life, Col. Richard M. Torrance. I remember meeting Maj. Torrance as a cadet at GMC and the immediate impact he made in my life. Serving under his command later with 121st Infantry Division further cemented my respect for this great man. To Mrs. Torrance and my friends Greg and Jeff, may the God of all comfort grant you peace and joy as you reflect on Richard’s life and his great legacy. His impact on so many lives will never be forgotten.



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**Greg McMillan** - June 20, 2018 at 08:54 AM



“ One of the first men I met in Vietnam was my head Operations Officer, Captain Richard Torrance. During our year together we kept the Comancheros one of the best helicopter units around. I don't have many heroes in my life but Captain T was in my top 3. Melvis and the Torrance family, you are in my thoughts & prayers..

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**Michael Vizard** - June 20, 2018 at 08:00 AM

BC

“ *Richard & I met at the 529th Military Police Company, USAREUR HONOR GUARD, Heidelberg Germany in the late sixties. It was a sincere honor to serve with him.*  
*Bill Crenshaw*

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**bill crenshaw** - June 20, 2018 at 06:48 AM

DM

“ *George and I send our deepest condolences to Melvis and the family. We knew Richard and Melvis when we were in the military and spent a wonderful short time with them in their home in Georgia. Richard was so very kind to us, always. George was so glad to hear Richard's voice one more time not too long ago on the phone. It was an honor to know him and we are so deeply sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and your family. God Bless.*

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**Deborah Machain** - June 20, 2018 at 06:26 AM

MA

“ *Richard has been a precious, dear friend of mine since I was a little girl. I rode the school bus with him, went to school at Union Point School, was a member of Black Springs Baptist Church where Richard was part of my church family, went to Easter egg hunts around the pasture at his family's "Torrance Farm", welcomed him back to Black Springs Baptist upon his retirement, accepted so much the help he gave our son Mark when it was time for Mark to sell cows, since Richard helped load them and then took them to the sale for him and also told him about a bull that Mark bought because of Richard's advice! I shall always cherish my precious memories of him, his wife Melvis, brothers and sisters, whom I love. May each member of his family & friends be at peace as they share precious memories of our dearly beloved Richard!*

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**Mary Archer** - June 20, 2018 at 06:04 AM

CN

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Your family will be in our prayers.

Carolyn , Kathy , Karen Nolan



Carolyn Nolan - June 19, 2018 at 09:20 PM

CF

“ Carolyn Nolan & Family lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance



Carolyn Nolan & Family - June 19, 2018 at 09:18 PM

CC

“ Colonel Torrance was one of the finest men that I have ever known. He was always willing to share his knowledge and experience with anyone who needed it. He believed that GOD, Family and Country were the three most important things in Life. He believed in Discipline but also in Compassion. He believed in working hard and being Honest. . He was a leader who's record of community service is well documented. He loved Life as much as anybody I have ever encountered. I am a better man from having known him. Rest in Peace Sir. Your Work On Earth Is Done. You Will Be Missed. :)

Chuck Cheeves - June 19, 2018 at 08:00 PM

NA

Col. Torrance was a mentor to at GMC. It was my honor to know it and I was also looking forward to seeing him at GMC REUNION weekends. RIP SIR

nicholas athanaseas - June 19, 2018 at 08:47 PM

AT

*Where I met and had an unforgettable connection with Richard was on his farm. Anyone seeing him work would be in awe of his dedication and commitment to agriculture. He mastered many valuable skills and was eager to share. He was hard to beat and his presence will be missed. RIP, my brother!*

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**Art Thomas** - June 19, 2018 at 09:18 PM

BY

*As the Commandant of Cadets I recall his "attention to detail" counselling. He provided real leadership and mentorship to the Corps. He leaves a timeless lasting imprint of hard work and dedication to all. I believe this is his legacy.*

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**Bob Yingling** - June 20, 2018 at 06:45 AM

RT

“ *Robert And Patti Tullos lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



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**Robert and Patti Tullos** - June 19, 2018 at 06:36 PM

NC

“ *It would be hard to put in a small space to explain the relationship I had with Richard I only had the honor of knowing him 5 short years but probably did more together than most people do in a lifetime I will miss him ,to all the family I know what you're going through and I pray the good lord puts his arms around you and comforts each of you I know he's in a wonderful place now and is not suffering.*

*Ned Coleman*

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**Ned Coleman** - June 19, 2018 at 05:55 PM

VM

“ *Vanessa McDade lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



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**Vanessa McDade** - June 19, 2018 at 05:14 PM

GC

“ *Gayle M. Crawford lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



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**Gayle M. Crawford** - June 19, 2018 at 04:59 PM

GC

*Melvis, so sorry for your loss. Will be thinking about you and your family. Jesus bless!!*

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**Gayle M. Crawford** - June 19, 2018 at 05:11 PM



“ *Mary Grant-Scott lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



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**Mary Grant-Scott** - June 19, 2018 at 04:01 PM

AT

“ Andy & Gail Thomason lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance



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**Andy & Gail Thomason** - June 19, 2018 at 11:48 AM

SH

*Prayers to Greg & Jim ❤️ To you and your family.  
Sheila Hammock McClain*

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**sheila** - June 19, 2018 at 12:52 PM

SH

*Prayers and love from Laura Harvey Smith*

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**sheila** - June 19, 2018 at 12:52 PM



*Greg, Jim, and all of your loved ones, Please accept my sincere condolences at this time of great sorrow. I will keep you and your families in my thoughts and prayers, for peace and comfort. Much love,  
Mary Ann Grant-Scott*

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**Mary Grant-Scott** - June 19, 2018 at 04:00 PM

SC

“ Memories of all of us growing up together at Black Springs Baptist Church. Remembering the Easter egg hunts on the front lawn at the Torrence home.

Richard was a very nice and friendly man with great Christian faith. Prayers for the Torrence family and friends.. RIP: Richard Torrence Peace be with you and with lots of love!!

Runette Pounds and daughters, Sunda Pounds Coleman, Janice Pounds Clark, Wendy Pounds Archer and Marilyn Pounds Carthers and our families!



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**Sunda Pounds Coleman** - June 19, 2018 at 10:30 AM

JY

“ This strong man of God has taken the final step to now spend eternity in the presence of our Lord. I can say I have known him my entire life as we are first cousins born about 9 months apart. We were close as children and teenagers but like a lot of families we drifted apart physically as we aged and had families of our own. We saw each other at reunions and other get togethers and never lost that bond we formed in our early years. I am proud to say this decorated soldier, family man and generally good person was a member of my family both earthly and as children of God. Rest now you deserve your heavenly peace.

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**Judy Shuler Young** - June 19, 2018 at 10:10 AM

JL

“ Melvis my prayers are very much with you at this time of loss, but find comfort in knowing where he is, and you will see him again in Heaven. I know a little of what you are going through. God Bless  
Janice Lowery

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**Janice Flirt Lowery** - June 19, 2018 at 09:47 AM

DW

“ *My deepest sympathy to all the family. Debbie (Bloodworth Eady) Wilkinson*



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**Deborah Wilkinson** - June 19, 2018 at 09:42 AM

JD

“ *So sorry for your loss, Melvis. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*



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**Jim Durden** - June 19, 2018 at 08:20 AM

CS

“ *I remember when Richard would bring his grandson over to watch Bill Amerson feed his snakes, always thought what a great grandpa he was. Heartfelt condolences to all who knew and loved him. With sympathy, Bill (Bubba) Amerson and Claudia. R.I.P.*

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**Claudia Singer** - June 19, 2018 at 08:06 AM

LM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Luther & Berta and Friends at Johnnie McDade Grocery.*



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**LUTHER MINOR** - June 19, 2018 at 06:40 AM

TP

“ *Men of honor, courage and character go in "harms way" when some choose to do otherwise. Richard stood in the breach for many years and I count myself honored to call him a Brother-in-Arms and friend. The lights of the "Chiefs' Mess" aboard the Ship of my memory will be dimmed this evening by this Old Sea Dog in honor of a Soldier who is now marching to the cadence of the Celestial Battalion. Stand at Ease Colonel those of us remaining have the Guard.*

Thomas Peavy - June 18, 2018 at 09:36 PM

AT

“ *To the man who once briefly took me under his large wing about four years ago. All who had the privilege of meeting him will never forget what a wonderful, down to earth, caring southern gentleman he was; ever!*



Alan Thrower - June 18, 2018 at 09:07 PM

JW

“ *Melvis, boys, Mr. Grady and Frances, we are so sorry to hear about Richard. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Tim and Joan (Dominy) Williams*

Joan Williams - June 18, 2018 at 08:59 PM

CS

“ *Cecelia Gunter Stewart lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



Cecelia Gunter Stewart - June 18, 2018 at 07:51 PM

AW

“ *Mavis, thinking of you and praying for God's peace. Anna G and Dewey*

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**Anna warnock** - June 18, 2018 at 07:36 PM

BL

“ *There are simply no words that can truly express the sorrow of the loss of Richard. He was a great man who fought off Cancer longer than anybody could have expected.  
Rest In Peace my brother. The good Lord will have a newly reconditioned Huey waiting on you to have some fun with your fallen comrades.*

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**Bill Lanzilotta** - June 18, 2018 at 06:39 PM



“ *Cally Scruggs lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



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**Cally Scruggs** - June 18, 2018 at 06:30 PM

LW

“ *Lois Woodall lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



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**Lois Woodall** - June 18, 2018 at 05:24 PM

LW

“ So sorry to hear this great man is gone but not gone forever. He's with his Lord and Savior. Prayers for Melvis and the family.

*Lois and Garvis Youngblood*

Lois Woodall - June 18, 2018 at 05:24 PM

CG

“ One of the best Family men I had the pleasure of ever knowing, last time we were together in the same place was at the passing of another loved one not so long ago, I'm glad I got to see you again. Rest in peace.

Christine Greene - June 18, 2018 at 05:16 PM

BM

“ Bob & Yvette MacGregor lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance



Bob & Yvette MacGregor - June 18, 2018 at 05:03 PM

GS

“ Gracie Strickland lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance



Gracie Strickland - June 18, 2018 at 05:01 PM

WN

“ Melvis, Jim, Greg, Jeff, Dan, and you families, we were sorry to hear the news about Richard. He was one of a kind. Great guy always doing something for somebody else. Never expected anything in return. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers in the days to come.

W.B. and Imogene NeSmith - June 18, 2018 at 04:41 PM

BB

“ Grady, France's, and family, you all are in our thoughts and prayers. J.T. Torrance family.



Betty Barber - June 18, 2018 at 03:59 PM

LS

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We will remember him fondly. Praying for Melvis and their sweet family.

Larry and Angela Spillers - June 18, 2018 at 03:32 PM

JS

“ Melvis, so sorry to hear about Richard. My prayers go out to you and your family.

Jay Babb Smith - June 18, 2018 at 03:29 PM

JS

Jay Babb Smith

Jay Babb Smith - June 18, 2018 at 03:30 PM

RW

*We are so sorry for the loss of one of the great ones. Always a hug and a smile whenever we would meet. Prayers and hugs for you all.*

**Russ and Anne Walden** - June 19, 2018 at 01:20 PM

JH

“ *Jimmy And Janice Hardie lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



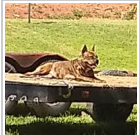
**Jimmy and Janice Hardie** - June 18, 2018 at 03:05 PM

WG

“ *Mavis & Family, I am so sorry for your loss. May God's Love give you strength during this difficult time.*



**Wendell & Jan Garnto** - June 18, 2018 at 03:05 PM



“ *I was not born in the family but was raised by his son Jeff. My mom never married Jeff but I consider myself a Torrance. I'll miss calling the house and hearing him yell TORRANCE when he answered. I loved him for his respect loyalty and ability to handle the Torrance boys all while making Memaw feel like the queen. I can honestly say the last real cowboy left in the world now has wings and his name is Papa Torrance. I love you*

**Maranda N Gabriel Tighe** - June 18, 2018 at 02:54 PM

KM

“ *RIP My Friend. Great Guy*

keith Meeks - June 18, 2018 at 02:34 PM

RA

“ *Russell Alford lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



Russell Alford - June 18, 2018 at 02:23 PM

 Reg  
Neal

“ *COL (Ret) Torrance was both a personal friend and mentor. He is THE reason I am in the Ga National Guard. His advice, friendship and mentorship have inspired me for more than 30 years. I was just as proud as one of his own sons when I'd call him over the years and tell him of a promotion or new assignment. Regrettably, he was not physically able to attend my promotion ceremony to Brigadier General, but my remarks included the most important advise he ever gave me as a young GMC Jr. College cadet working in the work-study program to pay for school. His words to me changed my life. They were as simple as the man himself..."You need to join the Guard". Thank you sir, like so many I took your sage advice, and am better for it.*

*BG Reginald Neal, Director- Joint Staff, GA National Guard*

Reg Neal - June 18, 2018 at 02:21 PM

JM

“ John, Li And ,Jasmine Merges lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance



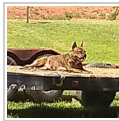
John, Li and ,Jasmine Merges - June 18, 2018 at 01:55 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name

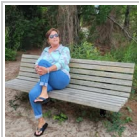


Devie Archebelle - June 18, 2018 at 01:15 PM



Papa Torrance  
#realcowboy

Maranda N Gabriel Tighe - June 18, 2018 at 02:56 PM



“ Terry Hardie-Smith lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance



Terry Hardie-Smith - June 18, 2018 at 01:06 PM

CD

“ Cecil and Betty Sue Davis lit a candle in memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance

Cecil & Betty Sue Davis - June 18, 2018 at 12:47 PM

HR

“ *Harriett Rowland lit a candle in memory of  
Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



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**Harriett Rowland** - June 18, 2018 at 12:33 PM

TS

“ *Tommie And Gayle Simmons lit a candle in  
memory of Ret. Col. Richard M. Torrance*



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**Tommie and Gayle Simmons** - June 18, 2018 at 12:29 PM