



## **SGM Bernhard W. Kaita, Sr. USA (Ret.)**

August 5, 1953 - September 28, 2017

SGM (Ret) Bernhard “Bernie” W. Kaita, Sr., a resident of Boerne, Texas passed away on Thursday, September 28, 2017 at his residence. He was 64 years old.

Bernhard Kaita was born August 5, 1953 in Berlin, Germany to parents Army Specialist Five Masao Kaita from Honolulu, Hawaii and Rosemarie Kaita from Halle, Germany.

Bernhard Kaita graduated from 71st High School in Fayetteville North Carolina and held employment with Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA) of Fayetteville, North Carolina before entered military service in 1974 as a Radio Teletype Operator. His assignment locations include numerous units at Fort Bragg, NC, Zweibrucken Germany, and Fort Eustis, VA. He served honorably for over 22 years in some of the Army’s most elite units to include the 82nd Airborne Division, Army Special Forces, and several Army and Joint Service elite military organizations. He served as a Telecommunications Systems Supervisor and Senior Signal Sergeant while participating in numerous combat operations world-wide. He was a graduate of the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Airborne Course, Special Forces Operations Course, Flight Training Preparation Course, Sniper Training Course, Basic Parachutist and Jumpmaster Course, Signal NCO Advance Course, Radio Frequency Management Course, Military Free-Fall Parachutist Course, and

the Sergeant Major Academy culminating his military career at the rank of Sergeant Major until his retirement in 1996. His awards and decorations included the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 4), Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Expedition Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), Army Good Conduct Medal (7th award), Army Achievement Medal (3rd award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), Meritorious Service Medal (3rd award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), and Legion of Merit. His other awards included the Army Superior Unit Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award (3rd award), Valorous Unit Award (3rd award), rifle and pistol expert qualification badges, aircraft crewmember badge, senior aircraft crewmember badge, parachutist badge, senior parachutist badge, master parachutist badge and the Panama Campaign Medal. Bernhard Kaita culminated his military career at the rank of Sergeant Major until his retirement in 1996.

Upon his military retirement, Bernhard also worked several years as a contractor for PhotoTelesis on specialized military contracts. He graduated from Saint Leo College University with a Bachelor's Degree.

He loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing, good music, sports, and gatherings of family and friends. Above all else, Bernhard's life revolved around his beloved wife Deborah.

Bernie will be remembered for the depth of his dedication, as a husband, a friend, a son, a brother and a Soldier. His charisma and natural humor and warmth made him an open friend, and his generosity of spirit enriched the lives of everyone he touched. His dedication to family and friends was only matched by his service to our country.

SGM (Ret) Kaita was preceded in death by his parents Masao Kaita, Rosemarie V. Pinaula and step-father SFC (Ret) Sebastian C. Pinaula.

Survivors include his wife, Deborah Kaita, son MSG Bernhard William Kaita Jr., daughter-in-law Heather Kaita, grandson Michael R. Wood, granddaughter Brianna E. Kaita, brother CW5 (Ret) Ronald B. Kaita, brother James S. Pinaula, brother Vincent L. Pinaula, brother MAJ (Ret) Anthony J. Pinaula, and brother David L. Pinaula.

A viewing will be held on Monday, October 2, 2017 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North, 3401 Cherry Ridge Drive, San Antonio, Texas. The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Monday, October 2, 2017. A Celebration of Life will be held Tuesday, October 3 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cross Mountain Church, 24891 Boerne Stage Road, Boerne, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in Bernhard's memory may be made to donations to the Unit Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 73338, Fort Bragg North Carolina 28307, <https://www.unitscholarshipfund.org/donate/index.html>.

# Previous Events

## Viewing

OCT 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge  
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 349-1414  
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

## Celebration of Life

OCT 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Cross Mountain Church  
24891 Boerne Stage Road  
San Antonio, TX 78255

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ *Deborah, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My prayers are with you now and may God wrap His arms around you. Bernie made quite an expression on me from the first time I met him at Foleys. Those eyes that sparkled and his friendly quiet presence always made me wish I knew him better. He was special and I know how happy you both were.*

*He is now in a safe place.*

*Cheri Clow*

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**cheri clow** - October 02, 2017 at 06:55 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of SGM Bernhard W. Kaita, Sr. USA (Ret.).*



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October 02, 2017 at 05:22 PM

DC

“ *SGM Bernie 'Budda' Kiata was one of the finest NCO, Soldier and Technician I ever served with. He was the ultimate Team Member and Innovation Leader in the 'unit'. Moreover Budda was a trusted friend and comrade in arms to us all. Rest in Peace my friend.*

*Dick Cody*

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**Dick Cody** - October 02, 2017 at 03:29 PM

YF

“ Your Kerrville Belk Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of SGM Bernhard W. Kaita, Sr. USA (Ret.).



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**Your Kerrville Belk Family** - October 02, 2017 at 01:09 PM

MM

“ Michael M. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of SGM Bernhard W. Kaita, Sr. USA (Ret.).



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**Michael M.** - October 02, 2017 at 11:55 AM



“ Bernard was a neighbor and good friend of my daughter and son-in-law. I met him several times through them. I was told he had been part of some extreme military actions, but he never talked about them, and my son-in-law advised me not to bring the subject up for fear of embarrassing or otherwise upsetting him. But one day over a glass or two of wine, or maybe it was a couple of beers, I did. He was neither upset nor embarrassed. He was silent for a moment, then apparently deciding the occasion was ripe, he opened up with a couple stories that floored me. He insisted he had done nothing extraordinary, but that obviously was not the case. Calling Bernie a hero falls short of a full and fair description of him. He's is the quintessential example of why the military deserves our greatest respect and admiration. He encapsulated its finest qualities, and though I didn't know him as thoroughly as I would have liked, I will never forget him.

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**Gerald Beckman** - October 01, 2017 at 01:34 PM

PE

“ Prayers are with you Deborah and your family. I am so sorry to hear of Bernies passing. He left an impression on all of us.

Paul Ely - September 30, 2017 at 10:00 AM

HC

“ Hank and Carole Cook purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of SGM Bernhard W. Kaita, Sr. USA (Ret.).



Hank and Carole Cook - September 30, 2017 at 08:40 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of SGM Bernhard W. Kaita, Sr. USA (Ret.).



September 30, 2017 at 06:15 AM

 Lee Ruiz

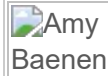
“ Prayers and strength and so very sorry for your loss Deborah and Family. He was a very well respected, fun and entertaining friend to us all . You were very blessed to have married a more blessed , caring and kind husband as we knew him at all our gatherings. He will be dearly missed.  
Lee and Emma Ruiz

Lee Ruiz - September 30, 2017 at 12:55 AM

SC

*My deepest condolences to you Deborah my friend I always will remember Bernie as a very kind man and neighbor who always had a smile on his face and I know he loved you so much hugs❤️*

**Sylvia Congrove** - September 30, 2017 at 08:53 AM

Amy Baenen

*Deborah - sending prayers and strength to you and your family during this time.*

*Amy and Steve Baenen*

**Amy Baenen** - September 30, 2017 at 11:32 AM

GT

*My prayer are with you Deborah, Bernie was A very good friend he will be missed by all of us. I loved him like a Brother May he Rest in Piece and my we meet on the Plain.*

*George And Susan Thurston*

**George E. Thurston** - October 01, 2017 at 11:50 PM

JS

*Sending my prayers to the entire family. Bernie was a great friend and Soldier. I know there are no words to ease your pain. I will continue to pray for you all. God Bless*

**Jamie Sisler** - October 02, 2017 at 10:58 AM

RN

*My condolences Deborah during this difficult time, prayers to you and the family !!! Bernie was a great friend and mentor I will miss him !*

**Ruben A. Nieves** - October 02, 2017 at 03:31 PM

DH

*God bless you Deborah and family. Bernie was a larger than life kind of person who I always enjoyed being around and who I'll never forget. He was also one of the finest soldiers I've ever known. Rest in Peace, Bernie.*

*Don and Linda Howerton*

**Don Howerton** - October 02, 2017 at 09:50 PM

DS

*Dearest Deborah and family, our deepest regrets and prayers for you and your family. Bernie was a great friend and inspiration while serving with him in the military. There are so many funny stories that could be told about jumpmastering with the "Budha". His sense of humor was perfect and his professionalism was superior. I am honored to know both of you and both of you hold a special place in my heart. May God bless you during this time...Rest in Peace, Bernie.*

*Dave and Annette Stone*

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**dave stone** - October 03, 2017 at 05:01 AM

JK

*My deepest sympathies for your loss. Bernie was a legend in his own time. He will be sorely missed.*

*Jim and Karen Kazmer*

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**J k** - October 03, 2017 at 07:10 AM