



## Ralph H. Blessing, SGM Ret.

April 13, 1932 - June 2, 2004

### BLESSING

Ralph H. Blessing, SGM Ret., U.S. Army, was born on April 13, 1932 in Canton, Missouri passed away on June 2, 2004 at the age of 72. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and retired from the U.S. Army after 30 years of service. Mr. Blessing is survived by his wife of 50 years, Theresia Blessing; sons, Ralph J. Blessing and wife Rebecca, and Steve H. Blessing and wife Carol; sister, Reneé Stairhime and husband Lucky; 6 grandchildren; step-mother, Geneva Blessing; step-sisters, Barbara Leeper and Georgia Driskell; step-brother, Gary Berry; special nephew, Erich Cochran; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

### SERVICES

Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Monday—June 7, 2004 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday—June 8, 2004 at University Baptist Church, 6465 Babcock Rd. with Rev. Randy Bales officiating. Interment will follow at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors.

# Tribute Wall

CW

“ We just wanted the Blessing Family to know that Smadge wasn't forgotten at our HHC 8th ID Reunion in Chattanooga. CSM Nelson Sierra offered a toast to Pathfinders who have gone on, and Ralph's was the first name read. Many are very disappointed that the

---

**Carol and Greg Walk** - July 06, 2004 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Dear Teresia and family;  
Many people walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart. We knew you such a short time but your kindness has left something special in our hearts.  
Lovingly,  
Elvira and Louis Hickert

---

**Elvira Hickert** - June 30, 2004 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ I would like to express the condolences of the Foster family for your loss. May God give you the strength to carry on. Remember, your father had a good life and you had the opportunity to be a part of it. God bless you and your family.

---

**Paul M. Foster, Jr.** - June 24, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Dear Theresia, I am sorry for your loss and hope you will feel better soon. Ralph was a man that most people only dream of having as a husband-- you had the best. He won't be forgotten. I will be thinking of you-- Love, Shannon

---

**Shannon Diamond-Lopez** - June 14, 2004 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ *My deepest sympathies to the entire family. I will miss his e-mails!*

---

**Hans-J. Finke** - June 09, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *Dear Theresia,  
I was saddened to read this morning of Ralph's death. Russ and I  
always enjoyed visiting with him at the Neurosurgery functions. I  
remember his smile and good humor, and always thought what a  
good match you two were.  
Our condolences to yo*

---

**MARY JANE CORNELL** - June 08, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ *Theresia,  
We're sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with  
you and your family.  
Raylene Lockett  
8IDM 1982-1984*

---

**Raylene Mancini Lockett** - June 08, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Theresia, Ralph and Becky, Steve and Carol, we are so sorry for  
your loss. We know how hard it is to lose someone you love so  
dearly. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.*

*Theresia, you two adopted us into your extended family at*

---

**Chris and Sue Bowling** - June 08, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *Hervy was truly a great man. We were glad to know him better through annual family reunions. We will always treasure the tapes of him talking with our father about their experiences in the military.*

---

**Marc and Kathy Van Dusen** - June 08, 2004 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ *Dear Mrs. Blessing:*

*My condolences and prayers go out to you and your family. Mr. Blessing will be missed by many and for me as a friend and co-worker he will be greatly missed, since he was like a mentor to me when I worked with him. His presents wi*

---

**Tony** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Theresa,  
I cannot say how sorry we are that Ralph, your dear husband and friend, has passed away. The world is a poorer place that he is no longer on it. You are in our prayers as well as your family.  
Much love,  
Bernadette Saviano*

---

**Bernadette Saviano** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Ralph, I am very sorry to hear about your father's passing. I know he is going to a better place. We will all be together in the future.*

---

**James A. Smith LTC USAF Rt.** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *Ralph H. Blessing, SGM Ret.*

---

**John Nagle** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Never knew Ralph senior, but have worked with his son and consider Ralph junior a friend. If Ralph junior is anything like his Father than I'm sure Ralph senior was a good man. A man always ready to help or support a friend in time of need, a man sensiti

---

**Mark A. Grosvenor** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

FK

“ Ralph, I am very sorry to hear of the loss of your father. You have my deepest sympathy you and your family are in my prayers. God Bless, Frank Kos

---

**Frank Kos** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ The Blessing Family: My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during your time of sorrow. I was honored to have Ralph show me the ropes when I first started in the "fuels" business at Kelly AFB. He will be greatly missed.

---

**Charlene Smoot** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MI

“ I am deeply saddened by the passing of one of my 8th Infantry Division Headquarters Team members. Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one.

*Samuel A. McFarland III*  
*Major Retired*

---

**Major Ret Samuel A. McFarland III** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Our prayers are with you Theresia. Ralph is number one in my book. He is probably praying for you to ease your loss. Ralph knew his contracts and never let anyone mess with Uncle Sam. He never failed to help anyone having a problem or, problems. He may

---

**John Nagle** - June 07, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all the family members. I didn't know Ralph the SGM, but through his son, retired Chief Petty Officer Ralph Blessing, whom I've known for many years, and his lovely wife Becky, the SGM's loss has been felt by everyone. K

---

**Rob Trigiano, CTACM, USN Ret** - June 06, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Theresia - Sorry to hear about your loss of Ralph. Know deep in your heart that he will always be watching over you and loving you. Our love and prayers are with you. Shannon, Chris and Mitch

---

**Shannon Combs** - June 06, 2004 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ I have known Ralph Blessing ever since I was a child. He and his wife have been good friends of the family and it is sad to hear of his passing. I and my family would like to pass on our condolences to Mrs. Blessing and her sons. Ralph will be greatly m

---

**Allen Cook** - June 06, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ He has gone where all fine soldiers go--an extraordinary role model throughout his career--his guidance and leadership ever foremost. The pride of his sons shown brightly in his eyes--oh, how he so loved his Theresia. Many memories we shared--we are hon

---

**Skip McCaffrey** - June 06, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Theresia & family, our prayers & thoughts are with you during this difficult time. Ralph was truly a good man & will be missed by everyone.

---

**Mike & Erika Horony** - June 06, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dearest Grandma Omi,

*I am so sorry that Grandpa has left us. He was a good man whom I loved and respected very much. I will always cherish that he took me in as if I were his blood grandchild. I will miss him greatly.*

*I love you very much! If yo*

---

**Datum L. Blessing** - June 06, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Our Condolences and Prayers go out to the Blessing Family , and if we can help in anyway please let us know ..

*Sonneborn , R.T./Cmdr  
8th Infantry Division Association*

---

**Sonneborn, R.T. Sr** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Sorry for your loss. May God give you the strength to face life one day at a time. Keep your memories close and enjoy them.

*James and Gloria Cobb*

---

**James E. Cobb** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ I am so glad Ralph found my e-mail address several years ago. It was neat keeping in touch all these years. I remember our great penochle games in Germany--I was the worst player of all. He was a great soldier, and dearly loved the military and you The

---

**Trudy Swain** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Sorry for your loss. May God give you the strength to face life one day at a time. Keep your memories close and enjoy them.

*James and Gloria Cobb*

---

**James E. Cobb ret CSM** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ I want you to know my heartfelt thoughts are with you. "The God of love and peace shall be with you."  
*II Cor. 13:11*

---

**Wanda Coward** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ We will miss you SGM. It was an honor serving with you.

*George Garriott  
MSG US Army ret*

---

**George Garriott** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *Theresia, Ralph, Steve: Pepi and I wish you our condolences at this time. We have been fortunate to have know all of you and wanted you to know you are in our prayers at this difficult time. We love you, Bobby, Pepi, and the kids.*

---

**Bobby & Pepi Perez** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *A FIRM Hand shake, A Friendly SMILE, Always Willing To Help ,Fun To Be Around ,But Above All A Christian Who Loves GOD AND WHO has recieved His Reward For A JOB WELL DONE . A JOB WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL FRIENDYou Have Now Transfered To GODS ARMY T*

---

**Mr.&Mrs. James E Hardy** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss, I do not know the words that make it easier, but you should take some comfort in knowing the "Smage" will be missed by many.*

---

**Dennis Bailey** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Theresia and Family, Our deepest sympathy. We have so many wonderful memories that will last forever. We are here for you. Love you like a sis.*

---

**Jim & Sylvia Hardy** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *The many, good and bad time we experience together will always be, in FOND MEMORY. Our thoughts will linger forever, May RALPH, My good friend REST IN PEACE, LOVE, CSM James A, & Erika BOURGEOIS*

---

**James A & Erika M. Bourgeois** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Blessing Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of mourning. Ralph will be remembered as a great friend and neighbor.*

---

**Gary & Lilo Cook** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ *Although I had not heard from SGM Blessing since my departure from Bad K some 24 years ago, I AM EXTREMELY SADDEN AT THE NEWS OF HIS DEPARTURE. MAY GOD BE WITH HIS FAMILY DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME AND MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON HIS SOUL AND RECEIVES HIM*

---

**Nelson E. Sierra CSM** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Our hearts go out to Teresa and the rest of the family on the loss of Ralph. I never forgot his orientation on my assignment as the Command Sergeant Major of the 8th Infantry Division. As I left the G-2 room, I knew that I had met a professional soldier i

---

**Lorenzo Rivera** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Theresa, our love and prayers are with you and the family. Ralph was a very special person that I always felt comfortable with. I will sorely miss him. We can all take comfort in knowing he is in a better place and in God's eternal care. We Love you,  
Te

---

**Terry & Sandy Cassidy** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ With deepest regrets, for your lost. In the passing of your beloved one.

Sincerely yours,  
Bill W. Matchett USA, Ret.

---

**Bill W. Matchett** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ An outstanding soldier and comrade! SGM Ralph Blessing will be missed. My wife, Jane, and I extend our condolences to Mrs. Blessing and Ralph's family.

Bob Wyman  
former XO, 8th MI Company/8ID

---

**Robert D. Wyman** - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ My condolences and prayers go out to the family of SGM Blessing a true, dedicated professional soldier. 1SG MI Company Ken Fox.

Kenneth C. Fox - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ You were a good soldier and a good Pathfinder. Your service was very valuable to our country and to the countries you served in.

MAJ R Jim Hayes - June 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Extending our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your loved one.

Directors & Staff at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ My heart and prayers go out to the entire Blessing family.

Connie Goyette - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RZ

“ please accept my deepest and sincerest condolences on the loss of your father and husband

Regina Zeitlin - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

IT

“ May all who grieve in the loss of a fine gentleman and dedicated soldier be comforted in his achievements and love for his family. For my friend and coworker, Steve, We grieve with you in the loss of your Dad and know that you are in our prayers and thou

Irv Trinkle - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *May you rest in the hands of God.*

---

**Margaret L. Dyhouse** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ *Linda and I send our condolences and we know he is better place. He will always be with you Mrs. Blessing, Ralph and Steve.*

---

**Allen Jones** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Ralph--Your new friends at McKenney's share your grief and send our sincere condolences to you and your family.*

---

**David McKenney** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *To the Blessing Family,*

*He will live on in the hearts of everyone who loved him. My prayers are with you and your families in this time of need. May the Lord be with you now and forever.*

---

**Jeff Schenck** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ *Dear Ralph, Becky and Family,*

*My sincere condolences on the loss of your father, one can only be thankful for all that he has given you while he was alive, in love and memories. You and your family are in our prayers. With sincere Love and prayers Sh*

---

**Shirl GonzalesNastav** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ *Ralph, our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.*

*Greg Grace & Shirley Baker*

---

**Greg Grace** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *May you find comfort during this time knowing that others have you in their thoughts and prayers. With deepest sympathy....Susie*

---

**Susan Horton** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ *Dear Ralph, Becky and Steve - I am sorry to hear of the death of your father. Please know that your Frankfurt family is thinking of you at this time, and holding you and your family in our prayers. Donna and I especially will be remembering your dad at*

---

**Carla Peacher-Ryan** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *At times like this words of comfort from friends can help to ease the pain that we think will never diminish. But the best word of comfort is a word of hope given by Jesus who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though*

---

**Roy and Diane McCarty** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *Theresa, Steve & Carol, and Ralph, I will always remember the visits at Lawton/Ft. Sill and will keep Ralph in my memories forever. My deepest sympathies to you all for your loss. My guess is that Ralph is now advising someone at this very moment on ho*

---

**Chuck Truman** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Our sympathies to your family at this difficult time. We had so hoped to see SGM at our HHC 8th ID Reunion this summer. He is a character we always remembered with such fondness. A giant among other soldiers. We will drink a toast in his memory in Cha

---

**Carol & Greg Walk** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Our sympathies to your family at this difficult time. We had so hoped to see SGM at our HHC 8th ID Reunion this summer. He is a character we always remembered with such fondness. A giant among other soldiers. We will drink a toast in his memory in Cha

---

**Carol & Greg Walk** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Ralph was my SGM in Germany for close to two years, a very nice man! We called him Smadge.. May he go with God!

---

**Kevin Canada** - June 04, 2004 at 12:00 AM