



Rein John Vander Zee Jr.

July 3, 1954 - February 11, 2018

Rein John Vander Zee Jr. passed away on February 11, 2018. Rein was born to Diana and Rein Vander Zee in Camden, New Jersey on July 3rd, 1954. He is survived by his loving mother, Diana Vander Zee, sister, Lea Grisemer and spouse, Rian Grisemer and nieces, Hannah and Julia Grisemer. Rein is preceded in death by his father Rein John Vander Zee Sr. The world is a better place for Rein Vander Zee Jr. having been here for 64 years. Rein was an attentive and loving son, brother, uncle and dear friend. Rein was very proud of his family especially his two nieces, Hannah and Julia Grisemer.

Rein attended Ft. Hunt High School in Alexandria, VA. Upon graduation from high school Rein enlisted in the United States Coast Guard and began his flight training at USCG Air Station Mobile, AL in their Shipboard Helicopter Operation Division as an Aviation Survivalman. As a USCG Aviator, Rein was trained in operational, search and rescue missions. Rein was deployed to the Antarctica/Arctic aboard the USCG Icebreakers "Northwind" and "Burton Island" during Operation "Deepfreeze." Returning from Antarctica he embarked upon scientific and peacekeeping missions in the Southern Hemisphere. Rein's years of military service although dangerous were some of the best years of his life. He was very proud to have served his country.

After discharge from the military Rein attended Trinity University, San Antonio, TX like his mother and father and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in

Journalism, Broadcasting and Film. Rein then attended the Williamson Alderson Private Professional Theatre Conservatory in New York City for graduate studies in Acting-his lifelong dream. His acting career afforded him parts in film, television and New York City theatres.

In his retirement, Rein was a teacher for the San Antonio North East Independent School District. His favorite pastime was the study of Ancient, World and American History.

Quote from a dear friend Candis, "Life will never be the same without your genius, your sense of humor and your compassion".

A mass will be celebrated in Rein's honor Monday, March 12, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 3907 Harry Wurzbach, San Antonio, TX 78209. Beginning at 9:50 a.m. sister Lea Grisemer will share a eulogy of her brother Rein. Interment will follow the mass at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery with military honors. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to Disabled American Veterans at DAV.org.

Previous Events

Eulogy

MAR 12. 9:50 AM (CT)

St. Pius X Catholic Church
3907 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX

Memorial Mass

MAR 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Pius X Catholic Church
3907 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX

Graveside Service

MAR 12. 11:15 AM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *Cindy Del Bosque and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rein John Vander Zee Jr..*



Cindy Del Bosque and Family - March 07, 2018 at 05:45 PM

CL

“ *Candis and Laurent purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rein John Vander Zee Jr..*



Candis and Laurent - March 04, 2018 at 08:55 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rein John Vander Zee Jr..*



March 03, 2018 at 09:47 AM

WM

“ *With love, Jim (Spooky) and Jill Morgan purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rein John Vander Zee Jr..*



With love, Jim (Spooky) and Jill Morgan - February 27, 2018 at 11:31 PM

“ My cousin Rein John and I grew up experiencing life like few others have. Too infrequent vacations over the years of our youth always centered around meeting at our grandma Ruge's riverfront home in Bandera, Texas. It was Huck Finn, with catfishing, beer drinking, swimming holes, skipping rocks, sunburns, water moccasins, shooting guns, long naps, laughs way into the night, riding bikes, driving golf carts, trying to grow up, and becoming men who would follow in our fathers and uncles footsteps. Men who we greatly admired, and Rein would always place them in a position of honor, respect, and occasional awe. We grew up well. Later, in our twenties, we found time to hang together in San Antonio...two young men exploring the town, the ladies, and the life of the 1980's. Rein had extraordinary common courtesy...he was respectful, but also candid when things weren't quite right. I loved our times together, along with his beautiful sister Lea....they went by all too fast. And what are left now are the memories that make me smile. Rein was successful in theater, movies, and television. His role in the "Noises Off" stage production was exceptional. I recall the pure physical energy to pull that off, coupled with over the top humor, that made it one of the best date nights with my wife Sarah that I ever had. Rein was authentic. He sought out and found the core truth of a thing, and celebrated that reduction with insight and wit. I loved our conversations on a never dull wide range of topics. He found his way to the Cross, too, and Max Weltens was instrumental in that moment. Rein served all of us in the Coast Guard, and recalled fondly with me some of his missions to the remotest parts of the earth. He experienced life. He had his struggles, too. Don't we all. But he made his way through them, and navigated his life to a place where he was proactive and engaged in reaching out to all of his family members and connecting with us beautifully. I regret not being more engaged with him...the selfish pursuits of time and career often trumping times we could have enjoyed together. His time is now in eternity. It's his time now. He was a friend, a confidant, a buddy when I needed one, and a keeper of the Vander Zee DNA and standards of manhood. He honored us all with his life, and I am the better person for having had him in mine. I love you Rein John.

Rest now, my family member, my friend in the faith, my compadre on the town. We will roll again someday.

Dirk Vander Zee - February 25, 2018 at 03:01 PM

CP

“ *I have so many memories during the nearly forty years I knew Rein. One stands out in particular though.*

It was mid September in the late nineties, The phone rang and my husband answered. It was Rein. He was absolutely ecstatic about the arrival of his new little niece Hannah! I had never heard him so happy!

Over the years, Rein spoke often about his precious nieces Hannah and Julia. It warms my heart to think of all the joy he experienced with them.

All my love and deepest condolences to his precious Mom, Lea, Hannah and Julia.

May he rest in peace.

Candis

Candis M Perron - February 23, 2018 at 08:56 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Rein John Vander Zee Jr..*



February 22, 2018 at 12:58 PM