



Romanko L. Blankinship

January 3, 1943 - April 22, 2010

Romanko Lee Blankinship was born on January 3, 1943 in Independence, Kansas. He passed away on April 22, 2010 at Christus Santa Rosa Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. Romanko served in the United States Air Force as an attorney and after retirement he was a substitute teacher for NSISD. He is preceded in death by his wife Sherry L. Blankinship and father Reno V. Blankinship. Survivors include his mother Freda L. Blankinship, children Patrick L. Blankinship and Brenda L. Gonzales and husband Jose Gonzales DDS, sister Renita Butler and brother Thomas A. Blankinship, grandchildren Jose, Sierra, Jacob and Sophia Gonzales.

Visitation will be on Sunday, April 25, 2010 from 5-8PM at Mission Park Funeral Chapels South. Funeral services will be held on Monday, April 26, 2010 at 2PM at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Mission Burial Park South.

In lieu of flowers a memorial donation may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ I am adding this remembrance of Romanko Blankenship in December 2021 on the occasion of my thinking of him today as i recalled my service in the US Air Force. We were colleagues at Luke AFB, Phoenix, AZ in the 1972-73-time frame. He was a Claims Officer in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (base legal office) and I was the Claims NCO -- a Staff Sergeant who had completed two years of legal education and was fulfilling my military obligation in the Vietnam Era with an Air Force enlistment. I appreciated his accepting me as a professional colleague recognizing that in the usual course I would have been able to complete my education and have been a JAG officer and not an NCO. Ironically, when I received orders from my prior assignment at Clark AB, Republic of the Philippines, I was destined for Forbes AFB in Topeka, KS and considered the possibility of completing my legal education at Washburn Law School while completing my Air Force active duty. But, those orders were changed and I was reassigned to Luke AFB. Currently, I am a retired lawyer, living in VT and part of a lunch group that includes a man from Topeka whose father was a law graduate of Washburn.

Our lives are lived in intersecting circles. I am glad that my life intersected with Romanko's at Luke AFB so many years ago. I am not surprised to read of his success in his Air Force legal career and teaching later. I am saddened that his life was cut short by cancer and send condolences to his children and grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing to all who were touched by his genuine kindness.

*Roger Bloomfield
Wilder, VT
December 2, 2021*

Roger Bloomfield - December 02, 2021 at 12:49 PM



Roger I just came across your message about my father. Is now been gone for over 14 years. I live in Arizona really close to Luke Air Force Base and I never knew my father was stationed here. There's actually a lot of things I learned about my dad after his passing. Like the fact that he trained a lot of the people that worked for President Obama. An entire notebook filled with letters from past presidents congratulating my father. There are so many really neat things about my dad that I just didn't know. It was a very quiet private person when it came to things about himself. He accepted every award that was given to him but he did not display them or talk about them. He was just doing his job. He left you in the military and even when he retired from the military he went back again for 30 more years. Then he became a substitute teacher. At that point I was more in touch with what my father was about. Because I had been a teacher as well. Both of my parents are truly missed on a daily basis. My father only had two children my older brother Patrick and myself. Patrick has lived with Autism and intellectual disabilities and currently lives with me. All of my children are grown and have moved on. I appreciate your recognition and your words about my father. Continued success for you and your endeavors. Sincerely, Brenda Lee Blankinship Gonzales

Brenda Gonzales - November 02, 2025 at 01:42 PM

MB

“*Romanko was my first cousin. He and Patrick visited us in Kansas last year and we had a wonderful time sharing memories. He was such a happy person, loving father and enjoyed his retirement with the students. Romanko was so intelligent and caring of*

Marvin Blankinship - April 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DS

“*I'm sorry to hear the loss of Mr Blankinship. Mr B as I was known to call him. My time with him at lackland afb from late 80 to early 90 while stationed there was educational and fun. He taught me all about the military justice system as I was fresh from*

David Smith - April 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Our condolences to Brenda, Patrick and the entire Blankenship family. I had the honor of serving with Romanko during the assignment prior to my retirement. There are many active and retire lawyers throughout the United States whose knowledge and underst

John H. Wilkerson - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ My best wishes to all the family. Thanks, Mr. Blankinship, for the good work you did at Pease.

Lynn Ward - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ My condolences to the Blankinship family. Mr. Blankinship substituted many times at Pease Middle School. He was a very friendly man whom did not complain. Thank you for all you did at Pease Middle School. You will be greatly missed. Please know to the Bla

Demetria Allen-Simmons - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Mr. Blankinship was a wonderful substitute and a very friendly man. I enjoyed having him here and working with him. He will be missed by many people here at Pease, myself included. I send my heartfelt sympathy to your family and will be praying for you.

Mrs. Carol L. Drake - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Mr. Blankinship always made me laugh with his quirky jokes and sense of humor. He was a perfect sub for the middle school age student. He will be missed on our campus. God Bless You.

Jennifer Pratt - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Mr. Blankinship spent many days these last few years substitute teaching at Pease M.S. He had a unique style and brought a great deal of humor to his students and our faculty, including me. He'll be missed.

Larry Schneider - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Mr. Blankinship substituted many times at Pease Middle School. He was a very friendly man, he always greeted me with a smile and a joke. You were an integral part of the Pease Middle School family for many years. You will be greatly missed. My deepest co

Christina Lyons - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ Mr. Blankenship was such a nice person to know. He always had one joke or another to tell us. I am going to miss his laughter and him asking me "did you hear the one of..." It was a great pleasure to have known you. Thank you for all you did to help us

Rocio Johnson - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Brenda and Patrick,

Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time. We will miss your dad.

Jimmy and Lorraine McCarthy

Jimmy McCarthy - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Mr. Blankinship was a good substitute teacher who always tried his best to follow the teacher's lesson plan and maintain order in the classroom. He always had joke to share with the students and teachers. May he rest in peace.*

Cynthia Maldonado - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Mr. Blankinship always came into Pease Middle School with a smile. He would look forward to the day and the students. He loved puzzles and would share the answer to any that had a joke or "funny" at the end. My prayers go out to his family and friends.*

Maria Anne Martinez - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VP

“ *So saddened by the news of his death. He was always very friendly and loved to share a joke.*

Veronica Parras - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ *Dear Brenda and Patrick,
Michael and I are so very sorry for loss. I truly believe that your Dad is with your mother now. Brenda I know that your Dad took great comfort in knowing that you would take care of Patrick. My parents and I feel the same. We*

Kathleen McCarthy Hudson - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ My condolences on your loss. "Mr. "B" was my mentor at Lackland AFB -- he taught so many of the AF JAGs the law and taught us how to practice. I believe I am a better lawyer for having known Mr B early in my career, and i know i am a better person for h

Dawn Eflein - April 26, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ My thoughts are with you Brenda and Patrick...I have such fond memories of growing up next door. May your family find confort and peace in each other.

missy mccarthy scoville - April 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ My condolences to Brenda and Patrick. Romanko was a class act and a great patriot to his country. So many newly minted JAGs were trained by Romanko and went on to serve as brilliant JAGS, such as Major General Steve Lepper, now deputy TJAG, and Colone

John Economidy - April 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ My condolences to the Blankinship family. Mr. Blankinship substituted for me many times, and he was a valuable part of our school, Pease Middle School. He worked hard to keep my classroom in order during my absences and created a user friendly form for a

Carla J. Suffern - April 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM