

Joseph L. Klesen, 63, of Bella Vista, Arkansas died Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale, Arkansas. He was born on July 25, 1946 in New Kensington, Pennsylvania to Joseph Klesen and Rosemary Helen (Knize) Klesen.

He was raised around the world and graduated from Chalmette High School in New Orleans in 1964. He enlisted in the U.S. Army following graduation. He went through Warrant Officer Rotary Wing Flight School in 1967. Joseph served two tours in Vietnam where he was awarded the Silver Star and other service and Campaign Ribbons. He received a Direct Commission and served in various ground and aviation assignments until his retirement as a Major in 1985. He married Ava Gail Sanders on March 20, 1993 in Benton, Arkansas. He moved to Bella Vista five years ago from Weatherford, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Gail Klesen of Bella Vista, Arkansas; one daughter, Stacy Marie Klesen of Powder Springs, Georgia; and step-daughter, Karen Mason Buckland of Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

A Funeral Service will be at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at the Bella Vista Funeral Home Chapel, 2258 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista, Arkansas. Burial will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri.