



Zane D. Koester

July 3, 1949 - December 31, 2020

Zane D. Koester,

71, of Indianapolis, passed away December 31, 2020. He was born July 3, 1949 in Lakeview, Oregon to the late Elmer William and Teodora (Ferol) Koester Ryan. Zane was a 1967 graduate of Greensburg High School and played on the semistate basketball team. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business from Indiana University. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army Special Forces for over 30 years and was a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces Association. Zane married Sheree DeWester, November 5, 1983 and was employed as a letter carrier for the USPS for over 30 years.

Zane is survived by his wife, Sheree Koester; children, Daniele R. Baker, Donovan L. Koester (Erin), Addison C. Koester, Austin C. Koester and Allis D. K. Otley (Sam); sisters, Neria Shelton and Susan Koester; brothers, Steele Koester (Paula), Phil Ryan (Pam) and Paul Ryan; and 4 grandchildren; a fifth is due to arrive in April.

Funeral services are private and entrusted to Shirley Brothers Thompson Road Chapel. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Tribute Wall

GC

“ *Somebody once said, “You never know a person until you know the family that made that person possible!” Enjoy the pictures...and thanks to every member of that family for the many years of sacrifices they made to make Zane possible!*

Garry Coleman - January 15, 2021 at 09:07 AM

GC

“ *11 files added to the album Family*



Garry Coleman - January 15, 2021 at 09:00 AM

PO

“ *Donovan,*

Mis sinceros pésames. So sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Thinking of you and your family

Srta O'Connor, Southport HS

Pat O'Connor - January 14, 2021 at 06:57 PM

DA

“ *Very sad to hear of his passing; I've known him for about 40 years. In the mid 80's, when I was between jobs, he was my trainer for a part-time job at the post office. He had a walking route, and he made it like a workout. It was tough to keep up his pace! Enjoyed our conversations at the gym too. He could expound on just about anything. Rest in peace, my friend.*

David Ahlbrand - January 09, 2021 at 10:40 AM

SK

Thank you for sharing that. Sheree

Sheree Koester - January 13, 2021 at 02:09 PM

“ I just found out about my dear friend Zane. I must say, I am shocked and saddened. I first met Zane 30 years ago through church and got to know him through my coaching his sons in basketball. For some unknown reason Zane took a liking to me. I never understood why, as I was totally unprepared for his intellect. But boy, did we have some conversations. Well, not really conversations, -lively gives and takes! And Zane could give it. He could talk about any subject—he had been around the block a few times. Zane knew the facts and was always certain of his stance on things. And Zane could take it too. Anyone who knew Zane, knew he was the definition of stubborn, but, if on that rare occasion I made a point he hadn't thought of, he would relent. Zane was one of the few men I have met that I never felt anxious to open- up with in conversation—I always felt free and alive when talking with Zane. Zane didn't put on airs and I always walked away from my encounter with Zane having learned something new—sometimes staggering away in head shaking disbelief of my new- found enlightenment. I remember Zane one day showed up at my house having not heard from him for maybe a year –that's how it was with Zane—or usually out of the blue I would receive a phone call from an unrecognizable number and it would be Zane. He would always say, “have you retired yet, you know you are working for seven dollars an hour if you haven't.” On that day, Zane express his desire for one more deployment—one more tour. And, even in his sixties then, he looked the part. Zane could have been anything in life, but a pencil pusher he would never cater to. Zane was a man of adventure and action—he had to be in the fray. I think if Zane ever got cut, he would have bled army green. On those occasion when Zane would appear out of nowhere, he would equally ride off into the sunset, never knowing when he might reappear or call again—he was kinda like the lone ranger in that regard. Zane was an enigma and there was always a piece of the puzzle missing. Zane had an aura of invincibility that surrounded him. Some men are born to be heroes, and I had the great honor of knowing one. The world has lost a hero and I have lost a dear friend way too early!! With greatest sympathy-
Greg Gillispie

Greg Gillispie - January 09, 2021 at 02:39 AM

GC

Hey, Greg!

It was great to read someone describe Zane so perfectly...clearly you knew Zane extremely well! He and I spoke many times about life after death. Zane always said when you're Special Forces you must accept that there's a high probability you won't survive this deployment... Special Forces are not deployed to build schools!

I know Zane had a strong and enduring belief in God. I'm sure Zane would say nothing bad has happened...God just redeployed him!!!

Everyone who knew Zane knows that the streets of Heaven are just a little bit safer with Zane now on the wall!

Garry.

Garry Coleman - January 11, 2021 at 09:24 AM

GG

Gary, Amen! Zane is in perfect peace, but I assure you he isn't resting!!

Greg Gillispie - January 11, 2021 at 05:31 PM

SK

Thank you both! We are grieving but reading these accounts puts a smile on my face!



Sheree Koester - January 13, 2021 at 02:11 PM

MJ

“ *This is a hard loss. I've known Zane for 50 years, and was honored to call him my friend.*

We shared an apartment together in 1971, and had so many joyous times.

If Zane could manifest to comfort me, he'd probably chuckle, and say "it's just like drinking tea from an empty cup" ! It was one of his favorite koans.

Thanks for being my friend, Zane ! Rest-in -peace, soldier you deserve it !

Mike John - January 08, 2021 at 02:06 PM

SK

Thanks Mike!

Sheree Koester - January 13, 2021 at 02:12 PM

RP

“ *Graduated from Greensburg HS with Zane and we participated on the football team together. I cannot remember ever seeing him without a smile. I am sure he will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*

Roy M Preston - January 07, 2021 at 07:49 PM

SK

Thank you!

Sheree Koester - January 13, 2021 at 02:13 PM

CC

“ *So sorry for everyones loss. I was hoping to meet him one day, have heard so many great things about him. Prayers for each of you.*

Chip Chalker - January 07, 2021 at 11:58 AM

SK

Thanks so much. We appreciate all the thoughts and prayers!

Sheree Koester - January 13, 2021 at 02:17 PM

MD

Zane and I pplayed football together in high school. We were always on the relay teams together and broke our own records many times. I'll miss him at future class reunions.

Mike Dodds

Mike and Shirley Dodds - February 02, 2021 at 04:40 PM