



Richard Drew

D-6161

COL(R) Richard Drew, 61 of Alexandria, Virginia passed away on December 10th, 2025. Throughout his career, Rick served in U.S. Army National Guard Special Forces units at every level. Among his awards and decorations are The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star (1 OLC), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, the Military Freefall Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. In retirement, Rick continued his service as an Analyst for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. He is survived by his wife (Evelyn) and stepdaughter (Sharon). A celebration of life was held at the Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home in Hagerstown, Maryland on January 10th, 2026. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

COL(R) Richard Fred Drew

December 10, 2025 (Age 61)

Alexandria, Virginia

20th SFG(A)

SFA Chapter 92, Mem# D-6161

Rick Drew, a proud, passionate veteran of the United States Army, passed away on December 10, 2025, following a courageous battle with illness. Born in Fort Walton, Florida, Rick lived a life defined by his dedication to service, leadership, and his quiet strength. Above all, Rick's life was defined by his profound love for his family, who brought him unwavering support and immense joy. He was 61 years old.

Rick's commitment to his country spanned over three decades, culminating in his retirement with the rank of Colonel. A decorated Special Forces Green Beret officer, Rick was a soldier of distinction, earning numerous accolades throughout his military career, including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, the Special Forces Tab, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Military Freefall Parachute Badge, Master Parachute Badge, and the Spanish Military Parachute Badge, among others.

Throughout his career, Rick led and served in Army National Guard Special Forces units at every level, from team to group, and was deeply admired for his unwavering commitment to his Soldiers and his mission. He served in a variety of overseas deployments, including Latin America, the Middle East, and United Nations, and Coalition Operations. He was especially proud of his service in northern Iraq, where he commanded Special Forces teams and served on the last Special Forces Task Force during Operation New Dawn.

Rick held key staff assignments with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (War); Headquarters, Department of the Army; U.S. Army Special Operations Command; and the National Guard Bureau. He earned the trust and respect of those he worked with, exemplifying professionalism, integrity, and steady leadership in every role. Rick was a dedicated mentor to countless Special Forces Soldiers and officers across the Regiment. He was deeply committed to guiding current and future leaders, nurturing their growth, and shaping the next generation of leadership. His influence on the Regiment will be felt for generations to come, leaving an indelible mark on both the professional and personal lives of those he mentored.

After retiring from the Army, Rick continued his service as an Analyst for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where his expertise and dedication continued to contribute to national security.

Rick's education and expertise were as impressive as his military service. A graduate of Marion Military Institute, he earned a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern State University of Louisiana and a Master's degree in Military Studies from American Military University. His commitment to learning and leadership culminated in a fellowship at the U.S. Army War College at Georgetown University, where he focused on the evolving use of military power to combat transnational criminal organizations. Fluent in Spanish, Rick's intellectual curiosity and his thoughtful way of approaching challenges were at the core of everything he did, whether in the military or in his everyday life.

Beyond his distinguished military career, Rick was a man of simple joys. He was an avid reader, a passionate historian, and found deep happiness in travel, running, cycling, and spending time at the beach. He was devoted to his pets and cherished quiet moments of reflection. Rick's love for learning, his integrity, and his steady leadership were qualities that endeared him to all who knew him.

Rick is survived by his wife, Evelyn Metzger; a stepdaughter, Sharon; his parents, Wayne and Gay Drew of Atmore, Alabama; his brother, Rus Drew (Kimberly) of Cataula, Georgia; his niece, Anna Katherine Drew Carlin (Cullen) of Greenville, South Carolina; his nephew, Ryan Drew (Katherine) of Savannah, Georgia; aunt Deanie Drew Booker (Jimmy) of Huxford, Alabama; Uncle Byron Ray Drew of Costa Rica; and many beloved cousins. He is also remembered with enduring love by members of the Mitchell family, whose lives were deeply shaped by the years they shared.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to Rick's National Guard brothers and sisters, as well as his Special Forces teammates, who are mourning his passing.

A celebration of Rick's life will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 2 pm, at the Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home in Hagerstown, Maryland. A military interment at Arlington National Cemetery will take place at a later date, with details to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to [The Special Forces Foundation] (<https://specialforcesfoundation.org/>) in Rick's honor.