



**William Essex, Jr.**

**M-7465**

William Essex, Jr., 79 of Bountiful, Utah passed away on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1964 and upon completion of flight training, served a tour of duty in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. Bill volunteered for Special Forces duty and completed his Special Forces training in 1967. He was initially assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> SFG(A). He was reassigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) in Vietnam in 1968. Bill returned stateside to the 10<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) in 1969. He was honorably discharged from active duty in 1973 and joined the 19<sup>th</sup> SFG(A). Bill was honorably separated from the 19<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) in 1987 and embarked upon a career in law enforcement. Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V, 1 OLC), the Air Medal (2 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Silver Star, Palm), The Meritorious Unit Citation, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces TAB, the Aviator Badge, and the Senior Parachutist's Badge. Bill is survived by his wife (Barbara), son (Patrick), and daughters (Gwen, Katharine, Karen). No funeral information is available at this time.

William Sherman Essex

December 16, 2025 (Age 79)

Bountiful, Utah

Special Forces (Vietnam)

SFA Chapter 70 Mem# D-6096

William (Bill) Sherman Essex Jr., aged 79, passed away peacefully in Salt Lake City, Utah, on December 16, 2025, after valiantly battling cancer. Born on November 25, 1946, in Boone County, Arkansas, Bill was the cherished son of William Sherman Essex Snr. and Ruby Parrish Essex. His early years were spent in Southern California, where he received his education and formed the foundation of a life dedicated to service.

In 1964, Bill answered the call of duty by enlisting in the military. His service took him to Vietnam where he undertook two tours of duty, initially as a helicopter pilot and later as a member of the Special Forces. His commitment to serving and protecting continued beyond active duty, as he joined the 14th Group Special Forces in the National Guard and embarked on a career in law enforcement.

Bill's life was deeply enriched by his marriages. On March 13, 1971, he wed Mary Beth Whittle, with whom he shared a profound and enduring love until her passing in 2000. Their marriage was a testament to devotion and partnership, leaving a legacy of love and family. In 2001, Bill found love once more and married Barbara Rose. Together, they shared a life of mutual respect and faith, actively serving within the Church of Jesus Christ, embodying their shared values until his final days.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, William Sherman Essex Snr. and Ruby Parrish Essex; his brothers Robert Steven Essex and Richard Scott Essex; his beloved wife Mary Beth Essex; son, Philip William Essex; and stepdaughter, Elizabeth Barbara Rose.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Barbara Essex; brother, Barry Craig Essex (Dani) and sister, Toni Essex Archibald (Steve); his children: daughter Gwen Essex (John Esposito), daughter Katharine Essex Medel, daughter Karen Essex Moore (Shane), and son Patrick Sherman Essex (Nici). His legacy extends to his grandchildren: Trevor Medel, Mason Lancaster, Karson Lovejoy, Ayden Medel, Sierra Medel, and Connor Essex. Additionally, he is survived by his stepsons, Daniel Alonzo Rose, Paul Ford Rose, and Benjamin Robert Rose.

Bill's life was a tapestry of service, love, and commitment to family and faith. His memory will continue to inspire all who knew him, and his impact will be felt for generations to come.