

**Francis McCloskey****M-9646**

Francis "Frank" McCloskey, 77 of Johnstown, Colorado passed away on November 18th, 2025. Frank enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and upon completion of Airborne training was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. He deployed to Vietnam in 1967. Returning stateside after completion of his first combat tour, Frank volunteered for Special Forces duty. He earned his Green Beret in 1968 and was assigned to the 5th SFG(A) in Vietnam (CCN). He returned stateside in 1969 and was honorably discharged from active duty. He began a new career as a sworn officer with the Metropolitan Police of the District of Columbia. In 1971, Frank returned to Special Forces with the 11th SFG(A) of the U.S. Army Reserve where he served until 1984. He joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 1980 and retired from government service in 1995. Among his awards and decorations are The Bronze Star (w/V, 1 OLC), The Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Parachutist's Badge, the Battle Cross for Valor (Guatemalan), and the Intelligence Star for Valor (CIA). Frank is survived by his wife (Donna), daughter (Shannon), and stepson (Brandon). Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Francis J. "Frank" McCloskey

November 18, 2025 (Age 77)

Johnstown, Colorado

Special Forces (MACV-SOG)

SFA Chapter 4-24, Mem# M-9646

SOA Mem# 1932

Francis "Frank" McCloskey Jr. was born to Mary Lou (Meagher) Henry and Francis Sr., on August 1, 1948, and also raised by Mack Henry, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He attended United High School graduating in June, 1966 with Varsity letters in Football, Wrestling and Track.

Although entitled to a deferment as the last surviving heir, Frank volunteered to go to Vietnam, and unwilling to wait for the Marines or his 18th birthday, he enlisted at 17 and trained at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, and Airborne Infantry at Ft. Benning, GA. before deploying with the 502 Battalion of the famed 101st Airborne Division. On May 18, 1967, Frank was wounded in action and awarded the Purple Heart in addition the Combat Infantry Badge and A Bronze Star with Valor Device for his first Tour.

In 1968 Frank graduated U.S. Army Special Forces School at Ft. Bragg, NC, receiving the coveted Green Beret. Upon arrival in Vietnam for his second Tour, Frank was selected for an elite unit within the U.S. Special Operations Community called Military Assistance Command, Vietnam- Studies and Observations Group, (MAC-V-SOG). His tenure with this Group consisted of liaising with and training natives in counter-insurgency warfare and long-distance recon missions into Laos and North Vietnam, culminating with commanding his own Recon Team, RT Habu. After undertaking heroic measures moving his team to safety during an overwhelming enemy attack, Frank was awarded his second Bronze Star Medal with Valor device. After 3 years of war, Sgt. McCloskey transferred to the 11th (Reserve) Special Forces Group in Ft. Meade, MD in 1969 and was sworn in as a police officer with Metropolitan Police District of Columbia.

Within 2 years Frank was promoted to detective at MPDC Homicide where he was part of the responding detectives to the attempted assassination of President Reagan in March. Later that Spring, Government called on him again, this time to serve in the Central Intelligence Agency where he performed clandestine operations in the Latin American Division and was trained as a helicopter pilot. From 1981 onward, Frank participated in training the special forces of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador as well as the Contras.

In August 1983 in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, Frank put himself at extreme personal risk again to save another during a violent guerilla assault. As a result, he was awarded The Battle Cross for Valor, the only non-Guatemalan military member to achieve this honor. In recognition of his sacrifice, Director William Casey awarded Frank the Intelligence Star for Valor, the Agency's highest award and the Department of War equivalent to the Silver Star. Frank worked to thwart the spread of Marxism until 1995 when he retired from Government Service after 29 years.

In 1996, Frank was selected to be the Chief of Police for the Chitimacha Tribal Police department in Louisiana, where he assisted with prosecutions navigating Tribal Law and Napoleonic Code. After a change in elders, Frank was hired as a Detective in the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office as an Investigator. During this time, Frank was also solicited by the Department of Justice to return to Guatemala on a fact-finding mission concerning the previous civil war.

Returning home to the Maryland area briefly, Frank passed selection and was hired as a member of the United Nations Civilian Police Force in Kosovo in 1999 in the aftermath of the Bosnian War, during which time he served as a Investigator-Trainer for the Police in Pristina.

In 2000 Frank returned to his boyhood love, flying, and served as a MedStar pilot in the Washington D.C., Maryland area saving countless lives from traumatic scenes. After 15 years of flying, Frank relocated with his wife and family to Johnstown, Colorado where he gained employment as a flight dispatcher and scheduler at AIMS Community College in Greeley, Frank's last job where he worked up until the time of his passing.

Locally, Frank is survived by his wife of 48 years, Donna, his stepson Brandon along with daughter in law, Erin and their children Conor, Isabella, Luke, Oliver and Maximillian. In New Mexico, he is survived and loved by his daughter, Shannon, son-in-law Manuel, grandson Leo 'Bobo' Salazar and daughter Jennifer Galvez, son-in-law Carlos and grandson Gianluca. In Pennsylvania, he is survived by two sisters, Kathy Ashcom Lepsch and Lisa Henry, and in Florida, by his sister Laura Day.

Globally, Frank will be remembered by his oldest, and first love- his brothers in arms.

Interment to follow at Arlington National Cemetery in Summer, 2026.