

**Leslie Parrish****M-5173**

Leslie Parrish, 81 of Topeka, Kansas passed away on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Leslie enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966. He volunteered for Special Forces duty and was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> SFG (A). Leslie was reassigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> SFG(A) in Vietnam and assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Mobile Strike Force (B-55) as the Commander of the heavy weapons platoon. Returning stateside, Leslie was honorably discharged from active duty in 1974. Among his awards and decorations are The Army Commendation Medal (w/V), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/60 device), the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (w/Palm), the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Senior Parachutist's Badge. Leslie is survived by his wife (Brenda) and sons (Glenn, Keylock). Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Leslie D. Parrish

December 11, 2025 (Age 81)

Topeka, Kansas

Special Forces (Vietnam, B-55)

SFA Member at Large, Mem# M-5173

Leslie Parrish, a respected member of his community and a cherished family man, passed away on December 11, 2025, in Topeka, Kansas, at the age of 81. Born on December 7, 1944, in National City, California, Leslie's life was one of adventure, dedication, and profound love for his family and country.

Leslie's professional journey began after completing high school in California, where he pursued a career as a welder. He took great pride in his work at the Bureau of Reclamation, where he eventually retired from, before continuing his contributions at Menlo Park. Beyond his professional life, Leslie volunteered for five years at the Great Basin National Park, embodying a spirit of service that defined much of his life.

An honorable veteran, Leslie served in the United States Army as a Captain in the Special Forces during the Vietnam War. Enlisting in 1966, he dedicated himself to his country until his honorable discharge in 1974. His time in the military was marked by remarkable bravery, earning numerous accolades, including a National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, RVN Campaign Medal with 60 Device, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Senior Parachute Badge, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, two Overseas Service Bars, and a Purple Heart.

In addition to his impressive military career, Leslie had a dynamic personality. He was known to be very outgoing and enjoyed being the center of attention. Though often described as stubborn, these traits were coupled with his deep love for his wife and family. Leslie married Brenda Mills on April 11, 1992, in Yuma, Arizona. Together, they built a life filled with joy and laughter.

Leslie is survived by his loving wife, Brenda Parrish; his sons, Glenn (Lindsey) Parrish and Keylock (Christina) Dees; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews. His legacy will endure through their memories and stories.

Leslie was an avid motorcyclist and spent countless hours riding across the country. He was a proud member of the Day Trippers Motorcycle Club, serving with them for 45 years before retiring from the club several years ago. His passion for riding brought him joy and adventure throughout his life.

He is preceded in death by his father, Dan Parrish; his mother, Maxine (Trexler) Parrish; and his son, Les Parrish.

Leslie Parrish will be remembered for his vibrant spirit, unwavering devotion to his family, and the numerous contributions he made to his community and country. He leaves behind a legacy of love, bravery, and a life well-lived.

Leslie will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery with honors.