



Chester Steckel, Jr.

M-4497

Chester Steckel, Jr., 89 of Land O' Lakes, Florida passed away on February 1st, 2026. Chester was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation from the University of Maryland in 1961. He was awarded his Special Forces qualification in 1968. Chester retired from active duty in 1983 after 27-years of service. Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist's Badge. In 1983, Chester embarked upon a second career with the Central Intelligence Agency from where he retired in 1993. He is survived by his wife (Jacqueline) and son (David). Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

LTC(R) Chester Joseph Steckel Jr.

February 1, 2026 (age 89)

Land O' Lakes, Florida

Special Forces (Vietnam) MACV-SOG CCS

SFA Chapter Ch. 1-18, Mem# M-4497

Lt. Col. Chester Joseph Steckel, a devoted family man and esteemed military officer, passed away on February 1, 2026, in Land O' Lakes, Florida, at the age of 89. Born on November 14, 1936, in Atlanta, Georgia, Chester spent the early years of his life immersed in the traditions of military service, eventually following in the footsteps of his parents, Lt. Colonel Chester J. Steckel and Jamie Steckel. Chester's military career commenced with his education in the ROTC program at the University of Maryland, which laid the groundwork for a distinguished service in the United States Army from 1961 until his retirement in 1983.

As a member of the artillery and intelligence divisions, he served honorably with the special forces Green Berets and as a paratrooper, completing three tours in Vietnam. His exceptional service was recognized with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Master Paratrooper Badge, and Joint Service Commendation Medal. In recognition of his enduring legacy, he was recently honored with the Quilt of Valor. In 1983, Chester transitioned from military to civilian life, taking on a role at the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., where he served until his retirement in 1993.

His dedication to service did not end with his retirement; his passion for adventure and travel remained strong. Chester's life was beautifully complemented by his loving family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jacqueline, with whom he shared a deep bond after meeting in Ocala, Florida. He cherished his role as a father to his son David and as a grandfather to his grandson Zachary. Chester is also survived by his brother, Lindy, though he was predeceased by his two brothers, Charles and Jamaes. Outside of his professional pursuits, Chester found joy in golfing, college football, and exploring new destinations with his wife. His warm-hearted nature and stories of adventure will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. Chester's legacy of service and dedication to family and friends will live on, and he will be deeply missed by all. As we remember this honorable gentleman, let us reflect on the profound impact he made in his personal and professional life, embodying the true essence of a life well-lived.