



William "David" Hand Sr.

January 14, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of William David Hand, a devoted husband, father, writer and war veteran who touched countless lives through his quiet strength and unwavering dedication to family.

Born in Bonita Springs, Florida, William David was the third youngest of ten kids born to a single mother. Despite the struggles his family endured, these formative experiences shaped him into a resilient and resourceful man who would carry these lessons throughout his life.

William David often shared stories of his challenging youth - from collecting cobwebs under the house for makeshift bandages to helping prepare family meals and waiting patiently for the adults to eat before the children could be fed. He and his brothers found ways to contribute to the family, planting Royal Palm trees along McGregor Blvd for ten cents each and boxing competitively, winning golden glove charms that they proudly presented to their mother.

At seventeen, William David enlisted in the U.S. Army, a decision that would transform his life by providing the direction and focus he needed. Two years into his service, at age nineteen, he met the love of his life Kathie when he and his brother offered her and her friend a ride. Though she initially replied, "we have legs," fate intervened, and they began a courtship sustained through letters during his deployments and precious moments together during leave.

On August 4, 1961, William David, then twenty-two, married his beloved, who was nineteen. Their union was blessed with three children: their first-born William II, their second Julia, and their youngest Douglas.

William David's military service took him around the world, including deployments to Korea, Vietnam, Germany, and Belgium. Though he served as a war hero, he never considered himself one, embodying the humility that defined his character. With his devoted wife by his side, they navigated life's many obstacles together, always maintaining their humble roots and strong family values. William also has written five books on family genealogy.

Throughout his life, William David remained unaware of just how wonderful and impactful he truly was. His influence on others often went unrecognized until his presence was no longer there. He changed lives through his example of perseverance, dedication, and love for family.

William David Hand will be remembered as a man who rose above difficult circumstances, served his country with honor, and devoted his life to his family. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the family he loved so deeply.

The Addison family and staff of Magnolia Funeral Home extend condolences to David's family and friends during this difficult time.

In the coming days, David will be laid to rest in Bethany, MO at Miriam Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

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“ *Sending our deepest condolences to you and your family during this difficult time.* ”



Bluebonnet Hospice - January 16 at 08:56 AM