



## Desmond W. O'Keeffe

April 4, 1938 - February 7, 2017

Obituary for CSM Desmond W. O'Keeffe (Ret.)

Desmond W. O'Keeffe, of Westampton, NJ, passed away early Tuesday morning, February 7, 2017 at Samaritan Hospice in Mt. Holly surrounded by his family. He was 78. He was born in Dublin, Ireland; the son of the late Joseph (Jack) and Josephine (Josie) O'Keeffe.

He served three years in the Irish Army before immigrating to the United States in 1958. In 1959 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and retired in 1988 after 29.5 years of service as an E-9, Command Sergeant Major. He served with the 320th FAR, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, 1968-1969, earning a Bronze Star Medal during the Tet Offensive. Service to country, dedication to duty, and care of his soldiers were paramount throughout his entire career. He was a devoted family man who always put his family before himself. Even when facing the end of his journey on earth, his focus and concern was not himself, but expressing concern and love for his family to include grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews and other extended family members. He never wavered in his love and he was the "Rock" and foundation of family. He often reflected and spoke of his experiences in the military and wore his Vietnam Veteran hat with great pride. He touched so many lives and will be missed dearly, but eternally remembered.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Theresa; 3 children, Janet

O'Keeffe; Maureen Anderson; and John (Stephanie) O'Keeffe; 7 grandchildren, Faith Hernandez, Grace Hernandez, Giana Anderson, Kain Anderson, Olivia Anderson, John O'Keeffe, Jr., and Aaron O'Keeffe; a brother, Gerard O'Keeffe, sisters Eileen Kealy, Breda Wellman, Patty Rigney, Jennifer O'Brien, and Olive Mc Clusky, goddaughter Bernadette Byrne, whom he never failed to send her a birthday and Christmas card for over fifty years, numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents Joseph (Jack) and Josephine (Josie) O'Keeffe, brother, John O'Keeffe, sister Maureen Byrne.

Relatives and friends may visit with the family on Tuesday, February 14 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM at Perinchief Chapels, 438 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ. Funeral services will be held immediately after at 11:00 AM at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Hainesport, NJ. Burial will take place at the Brig. Gen. Wm. C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery, 350 Province Line Road, Wrightstown, NJ. Arrangements are under the direction of Perinchief Chapels, Mt. Holly, NJ. [www.perinchief.com](http://www.perinchief.com)

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in his honor to these two organizations:

-DAV (Disabled Veterans), <https://www.dav.org/>

-Casey Doolin Memorial Fund (CDMF)

Donations can be sent payable to the Casey Doolin Memorial Fund (CDMF), mailed to Jim Doolin at 5724 Ricky Ridge Trail, Orefield, PA 18069. The CDMF and the Philadelphia FBI provides assistance to law enforcement families whose loved ones are receiving medical treatment in the Philadelphia area. [www.caseydoolinfoundation.org](http://www.caseydoolinfoundation.org)

The family would like to thank Samaritan Healthcare & Hospice for their consistent wonderful care.



# Cemetery Details

## BGWCD Veteran's Memorial Cemetery

350 Provinceline Rd.,  
Wrightstown, NJ

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 14. 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Perinchief Chapels  
438 High Street  
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060  
(609) 267-0399  
info@perinchief.com  
<http://www.perinchief.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 14. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C Church  
1603 Marne Highway  
Hainesport, NJ

# Tribute Wall

CE

“ Charles J Eddington

*I served with CMS Desmond O'Keefe in Babenhausen, Germany with the 2/83 FA from December 1975-February 1977. Sergeant O'Keefe was by far the most influential NCO during my 4 years of service. He was the last person to shake my hand before jumping in the jeep for the drive to Frankfurt before catching my flight home. My only regret is learning of his passing 8 years after the fact. My sincerest condolences to his extended family. RIP CSM O'Keefe.*

Charles Eddington - March 14, 2025 at 02:35 PM



“ Desmond W. O'Keefe

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ Desmond W. O'Keefe

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM

JB

“ Served under first Sargent O'Keefe in babenhausen Germany 2/83 field artillery....rip sarge

John burke - November 24, 2021 at 05:20 PM

JO

*John thank you for your post . I am his daughter and I sure would loved to have meet you . He loved his service to try Army and he cares for the troops deeply. Thank you for posting it means so much to me ❤️- Janet*

Janet O'Keefe - April 08, 2022 at 07:43 AM

FG

“ *We miss you grandpa We love you grandpa have a nice future in heaven love Faith and Grace*❤️

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**Faith and Grace** - February 14, 2017 at 08:29 AM

“ Dear Dad, Today is the day we say goodbye and honor you, your life , service to Country and our earthly way to show tribute to you as a husband, Father, brother, grandfather, Uncle , brother-in-law and a child of God and friend to all who were blessed to know you in life.

The void felt by us is massive and beyond words of expression. No words can express how deep your loss is to me and those who love you and have been blessed to cross paths with you in life.

You had a gentle spirit, caring and nurturing heart and a love for family that in my eyes is unmatched. You were genuine, loving, and such a kind man and always put everyone before yourself.

I have been blessed by God to have you as my daddy, my confidant and grandfather to my children. I always told others you are an honorable man a person who had an "unconditional and unending love".

Your words of "I love you Baby Girl" will forever ring in my heart. I never doubted for one second your love for me and my children. I know you worried about me and I will not deny I dreaded the day I would have to say my earthly farewell, however I have no doubt spiritually you are reunited with our Father in Heaven and our family members who have passed before us on earth.

Your dedication to service as a Soldier was paramount in your life. You took great pride to represent the Armed Forces and the United States of America. You lead by example and your soldiers were important to you as your duty to serve. I will always reflect upon your stories of military service and I am proud that I followed in your footsteps to have served in the Armed Forces like you.

I have said to you and do firmly believe men like you are a "diamond in the rough" and not easily found. God graced me with you as my father. Your words of advice, words of encouragement

*and reassuring and unending love was my "Rock" and foundation in my life.*

*I will miss my frequent phone calls to you, but like I mentioned to you on your final days I will still talk to you. I miss you daddy, each day tears flow ...but I know we will reunite again when the Lord calls me Home. I love you.*

*Your daughter Janet  
xoxo*

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**Janet O'Keeffe** - February 14, 2017 at 05:57 AM

MC

“ *The loss of a loved one through death is one of life's most intense challenges, and the pain can be overwhelming. But God doesn't leave you to suffer alone. Know that you and your family are in our prayers and you will find strength in the Lord.*

*"I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14).*

*Mike Cornitius*

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**Mike Cornitius** - February 10, 2017 at 07:20 AM

JO

*Thank you Command Chief Cornitius, your thoughts and words comfort me deeply. I know we have spoken of my father and how much he means to me and how I military retire on his date of birth. I take comfort in your chosen scripture and service to us, your Airman.*

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**Janet O'Keeffe** - February 12, 2017 at 10:01 AM



“ *Sending my condolences to you and your family.* ”



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**Rhonda Cunningham** - February 10, 2017 at 01:15 AM

FG

*We miss you grandpa We love you grandpa have a nice future in heaven love Faith and Grace*❤️

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**Faith and Grace** - February 14, 2017 at 06:43 AM

GE

“ *George purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Desmond W. O'Keeffe.* ”



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**George** - February 09, 2017 at 06:10 PM

GE

“ *I know how much your father meant to you John, you talked about him often and it will be a void in your life that will not be filled. Take comfort in knowing he is watching over you and your family at the right hand of Jesus. I am sorry for your lost John.* ”

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**George** - February 09, 2017 at 05:00 PM

JO

*Yes, a big void for sure. Thank you brother.*

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**John O'Keeffe** - February 09, 2017 at 05:11 PM

Sharon  
Vargas

“ My condolences to you & your family John. What you wrote about him was beautiful.

Sharon Vargas - February 09, 2017 at 01:32 PM

JE

“ RIP Uncle Desi.... I love you! 🙏



jennifer - February 09, 2017 at 08:20 AM

JO

“ My Dad, my mentor, and my rock in life. I am so heartbroken you had to leave us. You were the best dad one could ever ask for and a model husband to mom through the years, not to mention the most humble and honest man I have ever met. I have always been proud of your life accomplishments and your work ethic. Since you got sick and I would tell you that I and we all love you so very much and you would always say, "I know that." I only wish I told you so many times before you got sick. I am thankful that I had the chance to tell you nonetheless. I will always talk to you and do my best to honor you. You were always concerned about everyone else before yourself, even in your last moments with us. You had your sense of humor to the end, yet another example of trying to ease our pain of knowing we were losing you. You are so deserving of being another Angel in Heaven. Please watch over us and be there to meet me when it is my turn. I miss my Dad so so much. I love you Dad. 🇮🇪  
🇺🇸 Your loving son, John. 💔

John O'Keeffe - February 09, 2017 at 06:22 AM

JD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jackie D - February 08, 2017 at 09:12 PM

JD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jackie D - February 08, 2017 at 09:10 PM

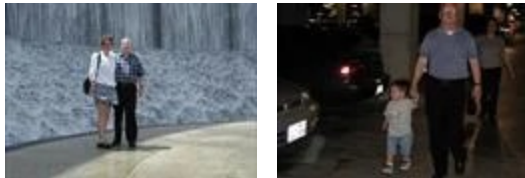
JO

*Me and my dad, he was so proud of me on this day. I was so honored to have him in my life and make me the person I am.*

Janet O'Keeffe - February 09, 2017 at 10:11 AM

JD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jackie D - February 08, 2017 at 09:07 PM

JO

“ 15 files added to the album *Husband/Dad*



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**John O'Keeffe** - February 08, 2017 at 07:15 PM