

Thomas William Knepp

Thomas William Knepp, 77, passed away on May 12, 2025.

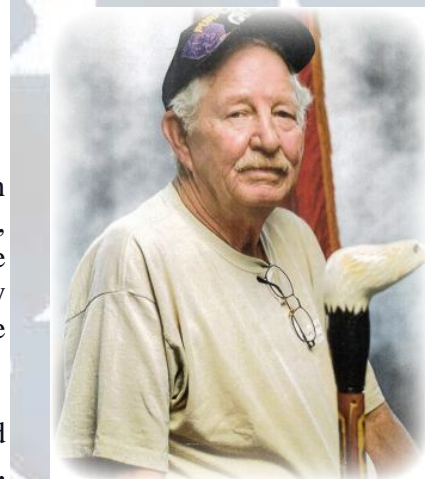
Born and raised in Cuyahoga Falls, Tom graduated from Cuyahoga Falls High School in 1965. Shortly after, he answered the call to serve his country with honor, joining the United States Army. Tom served bravely in Vietnam as a member of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry Battalion attached to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), where he was awarded both the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his courage and dedication.

After returning home, Tom built a successful 30-year career at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. He was known for his strong work ethic and quiet determination, qualities that carried through every aspect of his life.

Above all, Tom was a devoted father and grandfather. Family was his foundation, a value rooted in his upbringing as the eldest of seven brothers. He found joy in simple pleasures: sharing lunches with friends, sipping coffee on the porch, and chatting with neighbors. His warmth and kindness left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Tom remained committed to his fellow veterans throughout his life and was an active member of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 717. He was also a Life Member of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Regimental Association. His service, both in uniform and in the community, stands as a testament to the strength of his character. Tom's Company Commander in Vietnam, Colonel (RET) Dick Guthrie wrote of him: *"Quiet, steady, reliable, loyal, unpretentious, generous, dedicated... Tom Knepp was all of that in Vietnam with B Company in 1967-68. Then showing up at reunions where we all struggled to make sense of that long-ago, unending ordeal he remained that way ever since. Tom was one of Bravo Company's very best."*

Tom is preceded in death by his parents, William and Ann Knepp; brothers, Todd, Scott, and Brad Knepp. He will be missed by his son Brian (Jessica) Knepp; grandchildren, Stella and Miller Knepp; brothers, Dave (Carol), Cody (Carlena), Bill (Viktoria); many nieces and nephews; and his steadfast companion Java Bear.



1ST BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY

