

Captain (ret.) Jay C. Copley

November 3, 1931 ~ March 29, 2022 (age 90)

Obituary

Captain (ret.) Jay C. Copley from Columbus passed away at his home on March 29, 2022 after a brief illness.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM, April 1, 2022 at the Chapel of McMullen Funeral Home and Crematory, Columbus, GA 31907. Interment with full military honors was held at Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery following the service.

Captain Copley was born on November 3, 1931 in Buchanan Kentucky. Captain Copley entered the military in November 1949. He served two tours of duty in Korea from 1950-1951 and from 1952-1953. He went to Vietnam in 1967 as a Sergeant Major with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) where he received a battlefield commission to Captain and was transferred to and installed as Company Commander of Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry. On May 5, 1968 he led a counter-attack during the battle of An Bao in Binh Dinh Province, to relieve Alpha Company who had been ambushed. A platoon sized element had been unable to escape and was in danger of being over-run, and Captain Copley's swift response undoubtedly saved many lives. He was gravely wounded during this battle and received the Nations second highest award for valor, The Distinguished Service Cross, for his actions. In 1969 he returned to Vietnam for a second tour of duty. His other awards and decorations include the: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantry Badge with Star. Captain Copley retired from military service in 1973.

In June of 2008, Jay Copley was installed as Honorary Sergeant Major of the 50th Infantry Regiment at Fort Benning...a position he held proudly and with distinction until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Wilfriede, daughter Evelyn Perry (Rick) and son Jay Copley (Bridgyl). He leaves behind four grandchildren: Ben, Lauren, Calee, and Carly.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Infantry Museum or Columbus Hospice.

