



1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank

January 6, 1971 - July 8, 2024

1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank Sr, born January 6, 1971, departed this life transitioning into the arms of the Lord on Monday, July 8, 2024, after an 18 long year battle with a rare form of cancer called adenoid cystic carcinoma cancer. He was 53 years old. Shank, as he was so affectionately known, was surrounded by the love of his family and friends in the months and days leading to his passing. If he didn't know anything, he knew for certain he was loved.

Shank was born in New Orleans, LA to the late Susan Hartmann Shank and Charles C. Shank. He was a 1989 graduate of Salmen High School in Slidell, LA. Immediately after high school, Shank joined the United States Army where he served 22 years of honorable service to his country retiring as First Sergeant in 2010. His stateside assignments were Fort Ord, CA, Fort Stewart, GA, and New Orleans Recruiting Station. Shank also served overseas in Germany in the 28th Transportation Battalion where he served in multiple leadership roles; Platoon Sergeant, 68th Trans Co., Truckmaster, 69th Trans Co., Detachment First Sergeant, 260th Trans Co., and Company First Sergeant 109th Trans Co. Shank's final stateside assignments were as Interim SGM for DPTMS and NCOIC of the U.S. Army Inspector General Office at Fort Eustis, VA.

His decorations and honors include 1 Bronze Star Medal -Iraq Campaign, 1

Meritorious Service Medal, Order of Saint Michael, 5 Army Accommodation Medals, 6 Army Achievement Medals, 6 Army Good Conduct Medals, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NATO Medal and Gold Army Recruiters Badge with one sapphire achievement star. He unequivocally lived a life of service. In 2010 he received a BA in Sociology from Saint Leo University. After an outstanding 22 year career in the U.S. Army, Shank entered the workforce as government civilian that same year serving as SFAC Human Resources Specialist and later as Fleet Manager – Team Lead for GSA. He officially retired with a combined 35 years of total service in 2023.

On September 18, 1999, he married the love of his life Natasha L. Whitten. Together they have 3 beautiful children, Charlie, Aaron, and Jasmyn, his pride and joy. His love for his family transcended any ever known or openly expressed. Shank was also a car enthusiast, motorcycle rider, and history buff. He loved doing burnouts every chance he got. He would rev an engine all night, just ask our neighbors. If you ever got the chance to ride with him or spend time in his office, you'd immediately come to realize his love of music, he had the best playlist.

Shank was the type of person who never met a stranger. To know him was to love him. You immediately knew his love for his family was deep, his love for Tasha was over the moon and his love for the Lord was evident. Not only was Shank the soldier of all soldiers, he was an incredible son, brother, father, as well as the ultimate leader, mentor and friend. Shank was Ordained as a Deacon in Germany April 2007. On his Facebook page "Diakonos" is Greek for Deacon. He served honorably in his deacon duties for as long as his health would allow.

Charles Leon Shank Sr. is survived by his wife of 25 years, Natasha, son Charlie (Laura) Shank Jr., son SGT Aaron Shank and daughter Jasmyn, his brothers Ron (Sharon), Mike (Debbie), Randy (Loretta), Martin 'Burt' (Lisa)

Shank and Jared (Joanna) Culbertson. His aunts Nancy (Dave) Archer, Carol (Nelson) Alquist. His in-laws Winston (Mary) Whitten Sr., as well as a host of sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, and many lifelong friends. He is preceded in death by his mother, Susan Barger, father, Charlie C. Shank, grandmother Rita Fritsch-Hartmann, grand-father Leon M. Hartmann, aunt Betty Giordano, and uncle Leon M. Hartmann Sr.

The family suggests using Eden's Floral Designs for your floral needs:

5124 Charles City Road

Henrico, VA 23233

804-980-6377

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL **26.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel
9923 Pocahontas Trail
Providence Forge, VA 23140
(804) 966-7075

Celebration of Life Service

JUL **27.** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Baptist Church
4247 Creighton Road
Richmond, VA 23233
<http://www.myspbc.org>

The Family will also receive friends one hour prior to the service at St. Paul's.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Roshawn Burth lit a candle in memory of 1SG
(Ret) Charles Leon Shank



Roshawn Burth - July 29, 2024 at 04:10 PM

MM

“ Remember Shank from Fort Eustis ,he was a
great guy.,was there to help everyone.



Marilyn Morton - July 26, 2024 at 04:52 PM

CJ

“ Cheryl And Bob Jones lit a candle in memory
of 1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank



Cheryl and Bob Jones - July 26, 2024 at 08:57 AM

CJ

Natasha and family -
May "the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine
on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and
give you peace."
Our prayers go out to you and your wonderful family. God Bless, Cheryl
and Bob Jones

Cheryl and Bob Jones - July 26, 2024 at 09:02 AM

TL

“ Thomas And Veronica Loyd lit a candle in memory of 1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank



Thomas and Veronica Loyd - July 25, 2024 at 07:36 PM

AL

“ I rember about 25 years ago around the end of the year 1999 our 3rd platoon heard the news that we would have a new platoon sergeant and I was wondering if he would be a good platoon sergeant. It turned out that then SFC Shank was one of the best NCOs that I had during my time in the Army. SFC Shank took care of us and led by examples. One of my favorite moments was when we came back from the field I was surprised to see that Mrs. Natasha (please forgive me if I remember your name wrong), SFC Shank's wife, brought gumbo for the whole platoon and it tasted so good. Although I ETS in July 2001, I still remember and respect SFC Shank and he knew it.

An-Dan Le - July 24, 2024 at 08:58 PM

AW

God's blessings and healing in your hearts. Love you all.

Augustine Walker - July 27, 2024 at 10:59 PM

AW



Augustine Walker - July 27, 2024 at 11:00 PM

SW

“ When I was in my Officer Basic Course I prayed for a Platoon Sergeant that would be enjoyable to work beside, would help me grow as a leader and would have patience with me as I gained working knowledge of the Army and our platoon. God blessed me with an incredible leader of people, a patient teacher, a lifelong friend and so many laughs that I can't recall them all. Then I was transferred from 1st platoon to your platoon. (I know Shank would belly laugh if he was reading this.). I was always 3rd Platoon and you were my answer to prayer. Shank went on to become a Muleskinner, but I will always remember him as the best damn Platoon Sergeant that 69th Trans ever had.

Natasha, Charlie, Aaron and Jazzy... Shank loved to be a soldier, but his family was always first on his mind. I have stories stuck in my head of Natasha, Charlie and little Aaron (Jazzy came later). He would always talk about his family as we rode all over Germany together.

I will miss uncontrollable laughter with Shank. Even though Shank has left this Earth his stories, our memories together and the laughs they provide will continue to ride with me as long as I live.
Farewell Shank...3rd Platoon “Blow Smoke”

Scott Weber - July 24, 2024 at 05:41 PM

TG

“ Terrance G. purchased a sympathy card for the family of 1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank.



Terrance G. - July 22, 2024 at 02:29 PM

1L

“ Life's been way too short for such an amazing, funny and faithful friend such as you, my friend. Your passing is such a loss most of all for your family, but also for all of us who've been fortunate enough to have been called your friends. I will forever miss you until I rejoin you, my friend. Rest in peace in the meantime, Charles "Diakonos" Shank! (From 1SG Jolex Luberus)

1SG Jolex Luberus - July 19, 2024 at 09:52 AM

AT

“ You are one amazing Dude, since we first met!!! Love you Big Shank!



Aaron Tyler - July 18, 2024 at 12:42 PM

DS

“ Natasha (and family), sending my most sincerest condolences. I know Mr. Shank was a great man and his presence will be greatly missed. Rest in the fond memories and love you all shared. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Darkeesha Sims - July 18, 2024 at 09:04 AM

AC

“ You all are in my thoughts and prayers. Over the years, you two have been a Great Couple, an Awesome Friend and An Amazing Fire Fighting Family for God. I had the pleasure of attending your church when you lived in Gloucester and was truly blessed to see your entire family serving our Great God. He gave you more Wonderful Years to spend with Shank. Truly, he will be missed and your Aunt is Blessed to have him waiting for her in Heaven. Much Love to you and your family.

Annie Snow (Friend and Coworker) - July 18, 2024 at 07:47 AM

TT

“ Our condolences to you and your family. Shank, Thank you for Encouragement and Love. You will Never be forgotten. We Love you, Brother! We love you, Tasha, Aaron and Jazzy. Love The Taylor Family 🥹💙

Takita Taylor - July 17, 2024 at 09:23 PM

KP

“ Brother I love you and you will never be forgotten. Thanks for all the fun memories we shared and teaching all my classes in BNCOC.

Kenneth L Palmer - July 17, 2024 at 08:05 PM

TD

“ I am gonna miss our Superman SO MUCH!!! The laughs, the cruises, the prayers, the advice, the conversations Shank this seems so unreal but I know we have to trust God in all things!!! We shall forever be here for Tasha and the children!!! ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️
❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️ #ShankStrong

The Dilosas - July 17, 2024 at 11:52 AM

MM

“ I had the privilege of serving in the military while stationed in Germany. 1SG Shank was a true example of a hero not only to his Soldiers, but to his beautiful wife Tasha but his amazing children as well. 1SG Shank led from the front and made a positive impact on anyone he encountered. I was heartbroken to hear that he had passed, I'm just thankful he is. O longer in pain and flying high in heaven. I feel so honored to have been able to call him my battle brother, friend and role model. As you now watch over us, I pray for healing as Tasha and his family grieve his passing.

Maria McGruder - July 16, 2024 at 09:42 PM

NA

“ My condolences to you, Tasha and family. Shank was my "Brother"! I am so honored to have known him.



Nat - July 16, 2024 at 03:58 PM

CH

“ We fall in love with Tasha and Shank, the first time we met them. Our condolences to you Tasha and family. Jut wanted you to know we love you and you are in our prayers.



Cathy Haskins - July 15, 2024 at 08:59 PM

DR

“ *Diana And Rickey lit a candle in memory of
1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank*



Diana and Rickey - July 15, 2024 at 07:01 PM

DM

RIP BROTHER YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

Domingo L Morales - July 16, 2024 at 08:12 PM

CR

*RIP Old Soldier you fought a good fight down here on earth with
everything you did for your family and friends always looking for we
know that you are doing the same up in heaven! Thanks for being a
great friend to the Reid family.*

CSM(R) Jerry and Kim Reid - July 24, 2024 at 11:16 AM

LJ

“ *Brother Shank was a beautiful person and
soul with a soulful voice. I remember asking
him countless questions about the military
while I was considering joining, he was kind
and patience towards my indecisive self. Lol.
He will truly be missed. My heart, thoughts, and prayers are with his
beautiful wife and family.*



LaToya Jarvis - July 15, 2024 at 05:52 PM

TM

“ *The road Playlist you had for me was always amazing. ROAD WARRIOR PLAYLIST 4EVER.*



Tanysha Mayfield-legister - July 15, 2024 at 05:17 PM

KH

“ *Kathi Harward lit a candle in memory of 1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank*



Kathi Harward - July 15, 2024 at 04:58 PM

DV

“ *1SG Shank is a true leader and friend. He always had words of encouragement and motivation. He was very instrumental in the success of my military training team (MiTT) by signing over transportation assets to delivery sustainment to MiTTs and ODA teams. I am so blessed to have met such an awesome humble man of God. He will truly be missed. Rest easy brother!*

Derek Vinson - July 15, 2024 at 04:26 PM

DG

“ *Donnell Gary lit a candle in memory of 1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank*



Donnell Gary - July 15, 2024 at 03:45 PM

HP

“ I had the pleasure of working with Charles during his tenure as an Inspector General. It was such an honor to know such a great friend who was fun, caring and just a beautiful spirited human being. You'll be missed my brother. To Natasha and the children, I send my heartfelt love, prayers, and condolences to each of you and your family during your time of bereavement.



With sympathy,
Habibah Prevost, Chester, VA

Habibah Prevost - July 15, 2024 at 03:05 PM

NI

“ I had the pleasure of working with Charles.....he ALWAYS brightened the room. The world needs more Charles Shanks. Best wishes for Charles's family. Nick Capaldi

Nick - July 15, 2024 at 09:19 AM

CH

“ Tasha, Charlie, Aaron and Jasmyn you'll have a deepest sympathy and we will continue to keep you'll in our prayers forever.



Love Always,
Tony and Carolyn Harvey

Carolyn Harvey - July 14, 2024 at 11:23 PM

TG

“ *My sincere condolences and prayers to the Shank Family.*

I am very grateful that the Lord brought us together many years ago. Charles was a wonderful father, husband and friend! Likewise, he was a an exceptional work associate that all looked up to for guidance and assistance. He unselfishly accepted the difficult tasks and rallied others to do the same. His Cajun humor was one of a kind that kept a smile on my face.

I wish you peace my friend.

Terrance Gilbert

Terrance Gilbert - July 13, 2024 at 04:42 PM



PH

“ *Shank was a great role model and friend. Proud to have known him and served with him.*

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Patrick Haddock

Patrick Haddock - July 13, 2024 at 01:15 PM



“ Rest in peace 1SG Shank!!! Tasha, Charlie, Aaron, and Jazmyn: I am so sorry for your loss. May God grant you strength and courage in helping you find your new normal without Daddy Shank. We love you'll and God bless!



Charlene Mason Davis - July 13, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ Charlene Mason Davis lit a candle in memory of 1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank



Charlene Mason Davis - July 13, 2024 at 10:49 AM



“ April & Thomas lit a candle in memory of 1SG (Ret) Charles Leon Shank



April & Thomas - July 12, 2024 at 04:38 PM



“ Sorry For Your Loss



Thomas Widgeon - July 12, 2024 at 05:57 AM

CS

“ *What a great Man, and an unbelievable leader. Shank, your energy and passion for doing the Work. That, coupled with your faith, and love of family has always been inspiring. You are missed already my friend. God Bless you and that beautiful family of yours. Natasha, you and the kids have our hearts and prayers today and always.*

With love and fond memories,

*Cara & Shaun Salmon
En Temps <3*

Cara Salmon - July 11, 2024 at 10:47 PM



RIP, you will be remembered and missed !!!!

Peter Montoya - July 15, 2024 at 07:14 PM

SA

So very sorry you had to leave us too soon Shank! We know you had to go. You already know, Tasha and the family are in good hands. I gotta tell yah, You did an awesome job. Until we meet again! Mustang Sally signing you out my friend! You are Present and accounted For! With Love, your sister, your battle and forever friend, Sonya, aka Mustang Sally!💙💙💙Rest on Retired, US Army, MSG (1SG) Charles Shank!

Sonya Ashford - July 16, 2024 at 06:24 AM

RC

I've never met a more loving, supportive couple than these two. I feel honored to have known Shank and had the opportunity to be involved in his care. Sending so much love to Natasha and his family.

Rachel Conybeare - July 16, 2024 at 09:18 AM

AJ

I can't put into words what I feeling, you and Tasha have shown nothing but love from day one and it was blessing and honor rest easy Shank my prayers to the family.

Alison James - July 27, 2024 at 03:44 AM

AD

The epitome of professionalism, the "get 'r' done" man, and a friend when you needed one. The GSA FTW MCC office will miss Chuck and his help, his humor, and his hard work. God bless and rest in peace brother, until we meet again.

AI Dias - July 29, 2024 at 12:24 PM