

SFC William J. "Bill" Derr, US Army-Retired

Bill Derr, formerly of Mount Joy, PA now of Mechanicsburg, PA passed away on June 26, 2008. He was born in Catawissa, PA on October 24, 1934. Bill was the son of the late Cyrus S. Derr, and Dorothy M. (Mutchler) Derr.

He joined the Army in 1951 and retired in 1972. He was a veteran of the Korean and Viet Nam Wars. He then went to work for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board and retired as a Warehouse Superintendent in 1994.

During and after his military career, he and his wife enjoyed traveling the world. He was the author of "Righteousness or Iniquity, Your Choice and Your Just Rewards," published 2001.

He was an active member of the Carlisle Barracks Retiree Council and served as a past President and was a continuous active member of the Mechanicsburg Lions Club. Bill belonged to the Saint Katherine Drexel Catholic Church.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Charles M. Derr, and two sisters, Edna M. Hummer and Betty J. Lauver. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Marie L. (Parise) Derr; two daughters, Tina M. Derr of Ridgely, MD and Theresa A. Derr of Mechanicsburg, PA and three grand-kitties. He is also survived by a brother, Clark E. Derr, husband of Brenda L. Harbold, of Columbia, PA and two sisters, Emma M., wife of Ralph Sauders of Mount Joy, PA and Nellie Houston of Lancaster, PA and numerous nephews and nieces.

Visitation for friends and family will be from 6 - 8 pm on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at Myers Funeral Home, 37 E. Main Street, Mech., PA. Visitation for family will take place at Myers Funeral Home on Wednesday, July 2, 2008, starting 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. at St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Church, Mechanicsburg, PA. Reverend Stephen D. Weitzel will officiate. The Burial will be at 2:00 p.m. at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Ann-ville, PA with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Mechanicsburg Lions Club, PO Box 1284, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Inc, 2141 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 7000, El Segundo, CA 90245.

Bill's personal message to all: "Cry not for me, for I am now at peace. Cry for yourselves, as your suffering is not yet over. Ask for forgiveness while you are still alive, for after death, it will be too late." WJD