

Col. Giles F. Crider, 64

Memorial services for Col. Giles F. Crider, 64, US Army, Retired, were held Thursday, March 21, 2013, at 1 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, in Jacksonville, Ala., with Father James Macey officiating. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery, with full military honors, at a later date. Col. Crider died Saturday, March 16, at his residence.

He is survived by his wife, Vickie Owen Crider of Jacksonville; two sisters, Susan Teuton and her husband, Don, of British Col., and Mary Hutchinson and her husband, Tim, of California; two brothers, Peter Crider of New Mexico and Guy Crider of Oregon; his mother-in-law, Sybil H. Owen of Jacksonville; his brother-in-law, Joseph L. Owen of Jacksonville; eight nieces; and six nephews.

Giles F. Crider began his military career as an enlisted soldier in 1968 and attended Basic and Advanced Infantry training. He was selected to attend Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in April, 1969. Col. Crider spent the next 30 years on Active Duty in a variety of Command and Staff positions that spanned the globe from Jungle School in Panama, combat in Vietnam/Cambodia and numerous assignments in Europe and all over the United States.

He commanded Infantry units at the Platoon, Company, Battalion and Brigade levels. As a Captain, he commanded two Rifle Companies and the Third United States Army Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. He also commanded a Battalion in the prestigious Berlin Brigade during the Cold War. As a Colonel he commanded an Infantry Brigade Task Force in Fairbanks, Alaska.

His many staff assignments included Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division; North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) War Planner in Heidelberg, Germany; Chief of the Infantry Team, the General Army Staff, at the Pentagon, where he also served on the Army Staff and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, twice; special weapons advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell; Chief of Staff for the Sixth United States Army, Presidio of San Francisco; his last assignment was the Chairman for the Department of Military Strategy, Plans and Operations at the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Col. Crider's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star for Valor and the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action.

Upon retirement from the US Army in 1998, Col. Crider was hired by the Department of Justice (later the Department of Homeland Security) to help stand up the Center for Domestic Preparedness, the nation's only federal counter terrorism training center at the former Fort McClellan, Ala., as the Director for Plans, Security and Operations.

Following the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, Col. Crider was appointed as the Chief of Staff for the Center of Domestic Preparedness and organized the incredible growth of the Center in numbers of 1st Responders trained, huge budget increases and significant employee growth. He forged relationships with the Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Aviation Agency and the United States Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Forces.

After three years, as the Chief of Staff, Col. Crider was appointed the Director for Special Projects and Initiative and was instrumental in the Center's outreach efforts. He sponsored and hosted the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Immigration, Customs Enforcement training for the Alabama State Troopers and developed training for the National Bomb Squad. Col. Crider was also a speaker for numerous national conferences and seminars on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1100 Ireland Way, Suite 201, Birmingham, AL 35205 or to the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church Building Fund, 308 Seventh Street NE, Jacksonville, AL 36265.

Col. Crider was preceded in death by his parents, Giles E. and Peggy Frank Crider; his brother, Chris Crider; his sister, Debra Crider; and his father-in-law, Henry Lee Owen.

Online condolences to the family at www.klbrownfuneralhome.com.