

Special Forces Prayer

Almighty GOD, Who art the Author of liberty and the Champion of the oppressed, hear our prayer.

We, the men of Special Forces, acknowledge our dependence upon Thee in the preservation of human freedom.

Go with us as we seek to defend the defenseless and to free the enslaved.

May we ever remember that our nation, whose motto is "In God We Trust", expects that we shall acquit ourselves with honor, that we may never bring shame upon our faith, our families, or our fellow men.

Grant us wisdom from Thy mind, courage from Thine heart, strength from Thine arm, and protection by Thine hand. It is for Thee that we do battle, and to Thee belongs the victor's crown.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.
AMEN



In Memory of
Robert C. Kingston
General Retired, U.S. Army



MEMORIAL SERVICE
MEMORIAL CHAPEL
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA

0900 Hours

23 March 2007

Prelude Music	Robert Schaaf
Processional	“Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past”
Opening Prayer	Chaplain (Major) Eric Albertson
Scripture Reading	Chaplain (Major) Eric Albertson
Remarks	GEN John W. Vessey, Jr., U.S. Army (R)
Eulogy	COL John M. Collins, U.S. Army (R)
Special Music	82 nd ABN DIV Chorus “The All American Soldier” *“Ballad of the Green Beret”
Closing Prayer	Chaplain (Major) Eric Albertson
Recessional Music	Robert Schaaf

Procession to Graveside for the Rite of Committal

*Please stand

Reception to Follow at Fort Myer Officers' Club
(All guests are cordially invited)

Robert C. Kingston
General Retired, U.S. Army
July 16, 1928 – February 28, 2007



Second Lt. Robert Charles Kingston had already landed at Inchon and fought his way up the Korean peninsula before he took that incredible trek to the Yalu River without even a hand-drawn strip map to guide his group for the last 23 miles. That feat, which remains unique in the annals of the U.S. Army, was merely the first among many exploits that have made “Barbwire Bob” a Special Forces icon and a role model for young infantry officers ever since.

Capt. Kingston's 1959 efficiency report described a dedicated warrior whose "total hopes, dreams and aspirations reflect a single-minded devotion to military service found in few officers of any rank." Well said. His 37-year active duty career featured 29 years with troops, nine campaigns as a lieutenant during combat in Korea, seven more as a field-grade in Vietnam and 15 years of command at every commissioned level, from a rifle platoon in Company K of the 7th Infantry Division's 32nd Regiment to U.S. Central Command, which embraced 19 countries within its area of responsibility. He accumulated more than 50 awards and decorations along the way, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, three Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Other honors include induction into the Infantry Officer Candidate School, Ranger and Special Forces Hall of Fame. Special Forces Chapter XIII bears his name in Korea, where he commanded a waterborne raider detachment that conducted covert missions in 1951 before he successively became an instructor in the Ranger Department at Ft. Benning, Ga; an unconventional warfare planner with U.S. Army Europe; senior advisor to the South Vietnamese Ranger High Command; an operations officer with the Studies and Observation Group; commanding officer of the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C.; commanding general of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center; and a founding father of Delta Force. Former Congressman Dan Daniel (D-VA), a principal architect of legislation that originated the U.S. Special Operations Command in 1986, saw "only one four-star general with the requisite special operations experience [to take charge]. That is Bob Kingston" – who, because of bad timing, had mandatorily retired the previous year. "The ideal solution," Daniel continued, "would be to recall him to active duty," but that proved infeasible.

Assorted Secretaries of Defense, Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Service Chiefs, other commanders in chief, members of Congress, foreign dignitaries and admiring subordinates consistently praised Gen. Kingston. When former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Edward C. (Shy) Meyer pinned on Bob's third star, he said, "If I ever go to war again, I want this man on my flank." Special operations forces in Vietnam, by voice vote, declared Bob "the man I'd most like to have in a foxhole with me and the man I'd least like to have as an enemy." A sergeant who served with Bob in the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, at Pleiku summed up enlisted views with these words: "He was the bravest and the best, a born leader who saved a lot of our lives."

Ballad Of the Green Beret

*Fighting soldiers from the sky
Fearless men who jump and die
Men who mean just what they say
The brave men of the Green Beret*

*Silver wings upon their chest
These are men, America's best
One hundred men will test today
But only three win the Green Beret*

*Trained to live off nature's land
Trained in combat, hand-to-hand
Men who fight by night and day
Courage peak from the Green Berets*

*Silver wings upon their chest
These are men, America's best
One hundred men will test today
But only three win the Green Beret*

*Back at home a young wife waits
Her Green Beret has met his fate
He has died for those oppressed
Leaving her his last request*

*Put silver wings on my son's chest
Make him one of America's best
He'll be a man they'll test one day
Have him win the Green Beret*

Honorary Palbearers

GEN Peter Schoomaker, USA

GEN Bryan Brozon, USA

GEN Richard Cody, USA

Honorable Rudi Gresham

LTG(R) David E. Grange, Jr.

LTG(R) Richard G. Trefry

MG(R) Victor J. Hugo, Jr.

MG(R) John K. Singlaub

COL(R) Charles W. Norton, Jr.

CPT(R) Wade Y. Ishimoto

CSM Charles Mitchell Conway

CSM(R) David Clark

