



Albert John Lefko

April 25, 1940 - March 20, 2026

Colonel Albert John Lefko (USAF Ret.) passed away on March 20th, 2026, in Yreka, California at the age of 85. He was born on April 25th, 1940 in San Diego, California. He eventually moved with his parents to Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he spent most of his childhood. He later joined the military at the age of 18 and moved to Colorado where he met and married his wife Patricia. Together, they embarked on a life journey in the military residing in places such as Savannah, Georgia, Okinawa, Japan and later Northern California (Livermore, Napa and finally Dixon) before retiring to Yreka.

Albert dedicated 35 years of his life to the United States Air Force, retiring with the rank of Colonel. He served at several bases in California before anchoring at Travis Air Force Base at the 349th Airlift Squadron (Air Force Reserves) Commander of several troops. He traveled to many countries globally such as Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Upon his retirement he elected to work an additional 5 years with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Throughout his lifetime he earned several degrees: two associate degrees at Napa College, a Bachelor of Science at Pacific Christian College, a Master of Science degree at Troy State University at the same time while attending and completing Air War College in Alabama.

Albert was an outstanding commander and leader. He was acknowledged with several awards and accolades during his tenure with the Air Force for his commitment and expertise.

He was a devoted husband to his wife Patricia of 62 years and is survived by

his daughters, Sandra Droppelman (Scott) and MaryJo Lefko, and his beloved grandchildren, Nicholas and Natalie Droppelman. He was preceded in death by his parents John George Lefko, Mary Kurtak Lefko and his son Charles Thomas Lefko.

Albert was a passionate family man and enjoyed his aspiration and love for flying as a certified commercial pilot and instructor. He loved to travel and enjoyed working on his 200-acre ranch in Fort Jones, California. Together he and his wife Patricia enjoyed a ranch life with horses, cattle and crops. His legacy of service to his country and dedication to his family will be cherished forever.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 18th, at 11 AM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Jones. Interment will follow at the Fort Jones Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Wounded Warrior Foundation, St. Jude's, or Madrone Hospice in Yreka.

Tribute Wall

AN

“ With deepest condolences to the Lefko family. Wishing you all comfort through this difficult time. God Bless!



Anonymous - April 16 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Col Lefko was a Comrade in Arms, a Mentor and a Friend. He was my Support Group Commander in the 349th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base. During that time, he was influential in my career progression. He provided assistance and guidance during my Military career. He also became a Friend, and we had many conversations and visits over the years. He was a great man and patriot, someone I will always remember.

Lt Col Jerry L. Matthies, USAFR retired (2005)

Jerry L. Matthies - April 11 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Pat, I am so sorry for your loss. Al was a good and caring man and a true American Patriot. I am sending up prayers for the rest and repose of Al's soul and also praying for your multitude of happy memories to help ease your grief.

Cecelia Reuter - April 07 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

A Memorial Tree was planted for Albert John Lefko - April 02 at 12:00 AM