



Ralph Charles Liebchen

October 26, 1931 - April 30, 2016

He played Taps at the graves of many military veterans, and now it would be played for him. An Army trumpeter and bandmaster, and a veteran of the Cold War, Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Ralph Charles Liebchen, 84, of Altavista, VA, died April 30, 2016, at Autumn Care of Altavista. He was born Oct. 26, 1931 in Cleveland Ohio, a son of Ralph W. Liebchen and Anna Plitcheuweit Liebchen. He graduated from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio with a degree in music education and served more than 26 years in U.S. Army bands, retiring with the rank of CW4. He was the division bandmaster for the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC, and served as the division bandmaster in Seoul, South Korea, and as a trumpeter with the U.S. Army Continental Band at Fort Monroe, VA. His decorations and medals included the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal-Dominican Republic, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal-Korea, Parachutist Badge and Good Conduct Medals. He was a member of the Reserve Officers Association, the Military Officers Association, and Mensa. After his retirement from the Army at Fort Monroe, he lived with his wife, Margaret, in Sierra Vista, AZ for 18 years before returning to Virginia. Reared a Lutheran, he attended the Altavista Presbyterian Church. He gardened with zest, took in stray cats, and made use of his unique spatial skills.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a son, Thomas Hardy

Liebchen; and by his younger brother, David Paul Liebchen. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Perrow Liebchen, Altavista, to whom he was married for 34 years; by his sister-in-law, Patricia Hartle Liebchen, Columbus, Ohio; and by four children: Nancy Liebchen Tinker and her husband, Art, Fayetteville NC; John Timothy Liebchen, Hampton, VA; David William Liebchen, Orlando, FL; and Patricia Liebchen Crampton and her husband, Steve, Hampton, VA. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Kyle Crampton, Halle Crampton, Patrick Tinker, and Andrew Liebchen; one great-grandchild, Zoey Tinker; and three step-daughters, Georgia Merten, FL; Patricia Conner, VA; and Katherine Newell, Washington, D.C.

The family would like to thank the staff of Autumn Care of Altavista for their dedicated care.

A memorial service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Green Hill Cemetery, Altavista by the Rev. J. Kim Steinhorst with military honors by Fort Lee Army Honor Guard.

Following the service, a reception for friends of the family will be held at Altavista Presbyterian Church. Instead of flowers, memorial donations may be made to DAWN, a food assistance facility at P.O. Box 325, Altavista, VA 24517, Altavista EMS, an emergency medical services provider at P.O. Box 1, Altavista, VA 24517; or Friends of Campbell County Animal Control, a no-kill facility at 1400 Edley Place, Lynchburg, VA 24502.

Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Green Hill Cemetery

300 Westwood Drive
Altavista, VA 24517

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Green Hill Cemetery
300 Westwood Drive
Altavista, VA 24517

Tribute Wall

GW

“ *It Was a privilege to be your friend. 25th Div Band, 1956, Scholfield Barracks HI.*
Gordon Woods

gordon woods - July 05, 2016 at 05:51 PM

MB

“ *Michael Broadhurst lit a candle in memory of Ralph Charles Liebchen*



Michael Broadhurst - May 27, 2016 at 05:01 PM

JB

“ *Ralph was a highly respected musician and leader in The U. S. Continental Army Band, when I signed in as a young bandsman in 1971. He was patient as he mentored young soldiers, and I always looked up to him. It is sad to read of his passing, and my prayer is his memory will comfort his family in the days to come. God bless.*

Jeff Brett - May 25, 2016 at 10:57 PM

DW

“ *David Walker lit a candle in memory of Ralph Charles Liebchen*



David Walker - May 04, 2016 at 11:24 PM

SG

“ Condolences to Margaret and the girls. May he R.I.P. and rejoice with his Son, Thomas Hardy Liebchen, Thankful to have given birth to his children.

Sincerely,
Sue (Liebchen) Garman.



Sue (Liebchen) Garman - May 03, 2016 at 08:54 AM

KW

“ Kathy Walker lit a candle in memory of Ralph Charles Liebchen



Kathy Walker - May 02, 2016 at 07:56 PM

RW

“ Ralph Woods lit a candle in memory of Ralph Charles Liebchen



Ralph Woods - May 02, 2016 at 01:24 PM

BR

“ BILLY & DARLENE ROBERTSON lit a candle in memory of Ralph Charles Liebchen



BILLY & DARLENE ROBERTSON - May 02, 2016 at 11:02 AM

BI

We light this candle in memory of the years Ralph spent serving our country. Prayers for comfort and strength are extended to each member of his family. Especially bless his loving and devoted wife, Margaret.

BILLY - May 02, 2016 at 11:05 AM

JC

“ *Jo Ann Rice CNA lit a candle in memory of Ralph Charles Liebchen*



Jo Ann Rice CNA - May 01, 2016 at 09:33 PM

PA

“ *Penny Arthur, LPN lit a candle in memory of Ralph Charles Liebchen*



Penny Arthur, LPN - May 01, 2016 at 08:00 PM



“ *Joanne Brumsey lit a candle in memory of Ralph Charles Liebchen*



Joanne Brumsey - April 30, 2016 at 10:17 PM