



## Colonel William Ewald

November 28, 1920 - December 25, 2011

Colonel (Retired) William Ewald of Cadillac died Sunday, Christmas morning, December 25th 2011 at his home. He was 91 and had been a heart patient for several years. He was known throughout the area for his many years as a trapper following his retirement from the Army.

He was born in Kassel, Germany on November 28, 1920 to Frieda (Schaberick) Ewald and Fritz Ewald. He immigrated to the USA (New Jersey) with his parents and older brother in 1928.

He enlisted in the New Jersey National Guard (112th Field Artillery-horse drawn) in 1938. He quickly advanced to the rank of First Sergeant. He became a naturalized citizen in 1942 just before his commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry.

His service during World War II was in the European Theater where he was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, 39th Regiment as the S-2 Intelligence Officer (Interrogation). During this period, he distinguished himself in hostile action and was awarded two Silver Stars.

He met his wife, First Lieutenant Regina Bourget (a Cadillac native) during a hospital stay in the 98th Army General Hospital where she was assigned and was his nurse. They were married in September 1946 in Germany.

Following WWII, Major Ewald attended the Army Airborne School. During 1952 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and given the command of the 3rd Battalion 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Thereafter, he volunteered for the newly formed 10th Special Forces Group (Green Berets) and was assigned as the first director of Field Exercises for the 10th SFG (Abn) in Bad Tolz, Germany. Upon his return from Germany, he attended the Army Command and General Staff College before being assigned as the US Advisor to the Royal Thai Infantry School, Lopburi, Thailand. In 1960 he was assigned as the first commander of the Mobile Training Team (MTT) to train South Vietnamese officers and noncommissioned officers as cadre for the Vietnamese Ranger companies.

Following his MTT tour of duty in Vietnam and other assignments with various Army Headquarters including the Director of the Special Forces Unconventional Warfare Department, he was assigned to CINCPAC Hqs, Hawaii. In 1968, he volunteered for duty in Vietnam and was assigned as the senior advisor to the 21st Vietnamese Division in Ca Mau. During this period he again distinguished himself in hostile actions and was awarded a third Silver Star for gallantry and promoted to Colonel. His final duty assignment was as the advisor to the 300th Military Police Command in Livonia, Michigan. He retired from active duty with a total of over 30 years of service.

Colonel Ewald spent his retirement years as a resident of Cadillac and enjoyed trapping beaver, muskrats, mink, raccoon and fox in Wexford, Osceola and Missaukee counties. He met many friends during this time and he and his late wife enjoyed their time together with them. They especially enjoyed dining at Hermann's European Caf   and were one the first customers. He was a member of the Special Forces Association (Chapter 55), the National Trappers Association, the National Infantry Association, the VFW, Manton Post 7806, the American Legion, Post 69 and Saint Ann Catholic

Church. He was a staunch political conservative and supported many conservative politicians. He enjoyed his family and relished big family Thanksgiving reunions and his birthday celebrations.

Survivors include sons: William (Dawn) of Cadillac, Thomas (Leslie) of San Antonio, Texas and Daniel of Cadillac; daughters: Katherine (Bill) Richardson of Dubuque, Iowa, Elizabeth (Paul) Filler of Lowell and Margaret "Peg" (Marc) Throop of Richland; niece, Nancy Ewald of Camden, SC; 13 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Regina, his wife of fifty-four years.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11a.m., Friday, December 30, 2011 at Saint Ann Catholic Church in Cadillac with Rev Fr. Frank Murphy as celebrant. Burial with full Military rites will be at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Cadillac.

Visitation is 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac. The rosary will be prayed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Special Forces Association Chapter 55, Michael May Scholarship Fund. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Tribute Wall

WE

“ Colonel, St peter will be waiting at the gates to welcome you to a retreat with your fellow troopers. Rest easy and relax at the eternal R&R the rest of your command will be up shortly. WF Emerson, CPT (ret) USSF, SFA CH 35.

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**Walt Emerson** - January 01, 2012 at 04:42 PM

FB

“ so sorry unable to make it there. mass card in the mail. god bless the family

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**frank burns** - January 01, 2012 at 04:20 PM

PC

“ He will be missed by his Special Forces Family

*Paul F. Campbell  
asfbacsi@aol.com*

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**Paul F. Campbell** - January 01, 2012 at 02:57 PM

RS

“ God bless you Colonel. Thank you for your service, your life, your laughter and your love. May God bless and watch over you and hope you' re there to greet me when it comes my time. De Oppresso Liber.

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**Robert A Slivatz** - January 01, 2012 at 09:55 AM

RB

“ Remembering all the Ewalds today with very fond memories. My thoughts and prayers are with your family

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**Rita Border** - December 29, 2011 at 10:10 PM

JE

“ Grandpa you will live on in our hearts forever. You will be missed always. We love you and know that we will be with you one day soon.

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**Joshua & Nicole Ewald** - December 29, 2011 at 07:06 PM

MF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

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**Mike and Kim Foster** - December 29, 2011 at 03:42 PM

MW

“ Peggy, Sorry for the loss of your father. My prayers are with you. God be with your family

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**Mary Walsh** - December 29, 2011 at 03:39 PM

CB

“ Our deepest sympathies during your time of loss. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Charlie & Kim Benz** - December 29, 2011 at 01:10 PM

SL

“ To the family and friends of Bill, "  
My sincerest condolences go out to all of you"  
. Bill was a dear friend of mine whom I met through chance.  
Together we had many adventures on the trapline. As I write this I  
can smell the blend of cigar smoke and Beaver musk I so fondly  
remember. I spent many hours with Bill in his garage helping him  
prepare his beaver for market. We shared many stories during this  
time. Bill taught me many lessons during our friendship. They are  
lessons I will forever cherish. He made me a better trapper, a better  
Soldier, but most importantly a better man. He was and still is a  
shining example of a true man. Thank you Bill, you will be missed.  
Rest in Peace my friend.

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**SFC (R) Brian Lince** - December 29, 2011 at 09:29 AM

MD

“ Hello Liz,  
Sorry for the loss of your loved one. Thinking about you, your in my  
prayers and hoping this is a stepping stone to your healing process.

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**Mary Davis** - December 29, 2011 at 08:19 AM

JV

“ *Wow! What a great American! What a blessing your fan*



*What a great blessing your family has had in having such a great father in your midst all these years! A real life American super hero. Our prayers are with you.*

*Wow!*

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**Jackie (Fear) Vassallo** - December 29, 2011 at 12:22 AM

LS

“ Thinking of you and your family Liz.

Luanne Shaw - December 28, 2011 at 06:26 PM

JC

“ My heart is hugging all of yours. Let me know if I am squeezing too hard. Lizzie once told me that silence is the strongest of all languages...She was correct. There are no words of comfort to ease your pain that I can write. I love each and every one of you and remember nothing but wonderful times with you and your parents.

Judith Fear Clixby - December 27, 2011 at 11:50 PM

CS

“ I have had the priviledge of knowing Mr.Ewald for several years,what an amazing man, he told me about the love of his life, his wife Gina, how he found God, the stories of war, and the brave and good people he met along his journey he was very proud of his children and their families and always said " now listen family is family we take care of each other that' s what we do" then he would tell me about some crazy prank one of the kids did and laugh he said " I never had to worry about my kids, Gina made sure of that" . I know why this man was loved so much, he will be missed by many.

Cindy Sherman - December 27, 2011 at 10:56 PM

FE

“ If only we had gotten one more visit here on earth. I will wait to see you again with the angels. You will be missed terribly. We will always pray for you. You shall now live on in our unborn child soon. I love you.

Fiona S. Ewald - December 27, 2011 at 12:32 PM

KD

“ Liz, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. May you find peace in this season of light and hope.

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**Karen Delrue** - December 27, 2011 at 11:19 AM

PC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

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**Penny Helton, Mercy Hospital Cadillac** - December 27, 2011 at 08:45 AM

MS

“ It was such a privilege to become acquainted with Gina and the Colonel Bill Ewald 27 years ago. We loved them both, admired their service to our country and learned so much from them about patriotism, love of family, duty, and service. And they were such fun! We love the Colonel and his extended family so much. Our lives are richer, Truly, knowing them blessed us richly.

*Mardi Suhs*

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**Mardi Suhs** - December 27, 2011 at 08:34 AM