

# George A. Flake

1938-2020

48<sup>th</sup> State Deputy of Oregon 2001-2003



George A. Flake passed away at his home on Jan. 18, 2020, following a prolonged illness. He was born on June 17, 1938, in Astoria, Oregon, to Kenneth and Edith Flake. George spent his childhood between Oregon and Alaska with his mother and stepfather, Richard Barton.

In 1955, at the age of 17, George enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and remained a Marine until 1964. He had great pride about having served during the Cuban Missile Crisis and with the Marine Corps Air Wing while stationed in Japan and Vietnam.

On August 22, 1960, George married Kathleen O'Neill. They lived in San Clemente, California, until his honorable discharge from the Marines when they moved to Kathleen's home of Brooklyn, New York. George and Kathleen were blessed with four children: Colleen, Maureen, Kathleen and Patrick. In 1977, the family relocated to Central Oregon. Throughout his life, George maintained that the Marine Corps was his salvation and Kathleen was his rock.

George worked as an installer for the phone company in New York and Oregon from 1964-2000. He transitioned from installing phones in New York City to encountering rattlesnakes on his phone route in Central Oregon.

George became a member of the Knights of Columbus in 1985. He served as Grand Knight at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Madras. George also served as a District Deputy at the local level and as Advocate, Treasurer, and Secretary at the state level. He was elected Oregon State Deputy 2001-2003. George and Kathleen enjoyed traveling around the country representing the values of the Knights of Columbus. George remained a member of the 3rd degree and 4th degree Assembly of St. Thomas Catholic Church in Redmond, Oregon.

George had a commitment to public service evidenced by his time as a Madras Police Department Reserve Officer and as a Jefferson County Reserve Deputy in the 1990s and early 2000s. Additionally, George enjoyed mentoring youth and sharing his love for the outdoors as Scout Master for Troops #58 and #158.

Throughout his life, George had an adventurous spirit and curious mind. As such, he enjoyed many hobbies, including: fishing, hunting, bird watching, painting, cooking, reading Westerns and watching sports. George was never shy about sharing his wicked sense of humor, flair for language and love of storytelling with all who would listen.

George and Kathleen had nine granddaughters, one grandson and seven great—grandchildren.

The Funeral Mass was held at St. Thomas Catholic Church on Monday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m.  
He is to be buried at the National cemetery in Portland.

*"I'll never be a priest, I'll never be a deacon or a brother. This is as close as I can get to doing God's work - that's why I joined." George Flake, State Deputy - 2002*