



Terence Leo Rice
(Terry)

April 11, 1947 - Feb. 21, 2024

Terence Leo Rice (Terry), born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1947, passed away on February 21, 2024, at the VA Hospital in Asheville, NC. He was a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather, and a man of remarkable character.

Terry's life was a testament to resilience and dedication. At the age of 15, he embarked on a journey of service by joining the Irish Guards Regiment of the British Army. This early commitment to duty laid the foundation for a life marked by selflessness and honor. In 1968, he married Margaret Carson, also from Belfast, and together they embarked on a journey that would span continents and touch countless lives.

In 1974, Terry and Margaret immigrated to the United States, driven by the desire to provide greater opportunities for their growing family; they had already welcomed two children into this world while living in London, England. Upon arrival, Terry continued his service, enlisting in the U.S. Army and joining the prestigious U.S. Military Academy Band at West Point. Over the next 22 years, as he served his adopted country, Terence and Margaret welcomed two more children into their loving home, expanding their family and their hearts.

A man of many passions, Terry found joy in sharing stories, extending a helping hand

to those in need, and cherishing the bonds of family above all else. His love for the outdoors manifested in his enthusiasm for hunting and fishing, pursuits he shared with those closest to him. Proud of his immigrant heritage, Terry was equally proud of his American citizenship, embodying the values of loyalty, patriotism, and perseverance.

One of Terry's greatest joys was his love of music, particularly his skillful playing of the clarinet. His music filled the hearts of those around him with warmth and joy, leaving a lasting legacy of harmony and melody.

Terry is survived by his son Terence Rice and wife Leila of Lambertville, NJ; his daughter Maria Smith of Hickory, NC; his son Kevin Rice and partner Clara Schulte of Winchester, VA; and his daughter Angelene Fortune and husband Darrell of Morganton, NC, all of whom carry forward his legacy of love and service. He is also survived by seven cherished grandchildren who will forever hold his memory dear: Kayla McNeely, Clara Rice, Sophie Rice, Benjamin Fortune, Carson Rice, Elijah Fortune, and Amelia Rice. Additionally, he leaves behind his companion, Lynn Cunningham, who offered him love, support, and encouragement during his last two years. Terry also leaves behind three beloved sisters and numerous nieces and nephews across three different continents.

Terry is now reunited with his beloved wife, Margaret, who preceded him in death in 2017. Together, they will rest in eternal peace at the West Point Cemetery in West Point, NY, their love enduring beyond the bounds of this earthly life.

In addition to his beloved wife, Margaret, Terry is preceded in death by his granddaughter, Terri McKenna Smith, whose memory will forever remain a cherished part of the family's legacy. Together, they now rest in eternal peace, their spirits intertwined in the embrace of everlasting love.

In honoring Terry's memory, let us celebrate a life lived with purpose, passion, and unwavering devotion. May his spirit of kindness, generosity, and love continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

The family will conduct a visitation for local friends on Sunday February 25th from 1:00 – 2:00 PM at Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center in Morganton, NC. A formal service for family and friends will be held at West Point on a later date.

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In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the US Department of Veterans Affairs who did so much to care for Terry during his final weeks. Donations can be made online at <https://www.pay.gov/public/form/entry/101/50810087/> to the Charles George VA Medical Center in memory of SFC Terence L Rice.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

Quis Separabit, Last Post is sounded. Stand at Ease.

—Peter Clarke

I am so sad to read of Terry's passing. We became friends and colleagues working at Broughton hospital many years ago and he was such a kind man. We would run into each other years later and find out that both our spouses passed away the same year. He always made me smile when I saw him, I'll miss him and his infectious personality. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

—Kathy Richards

I worked with Terry and Margaret at Broughton Hospital. They even had me into their home for dinner on one occasion, insisting that a single man could use a good home-cooked meal! I always found Terry and Margaret to be lovely and gracious people. I will always remember both of them fondly.

—Dr. Richard Whited

What a wonderful life, and I am so glad that I was provided his obituary. What an honor. Once a West Point Band member, always a West Point Band member. His legacy lives on. -Deputy Commander, West Point Band, CPT Alexandra Borza

—CPT Alexandra Borza

Had a lot of good times with Terry and my sister Margaret in Belfast and London and West Point I will miss talking to him on the phone he would call me every couple of weeks and have a good laugh about old times will be missed sadly by his mate Joe REST IN PEACE TERRY

–Joseph Carson



I am so sorry to hear of Terry's passing. I worked with Terry for several years at Broughton and thoroughly enjoyed his candor and sense of humor. I saw him several times over the past few years, and I was always delighted to see him and give him a big hug. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family!

–Debbie Hawkins

Rest in peace uncle Terry thoughts with Terence Greta Kevin and Angie

–Ciaràn Carson

The Asheville Community Band family will miss Terry and we extend our deepest sympathies to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers now and in the days to come. Terry was a remarkable person and a very accomplished musician. George Brown

–George E Brown

Dearest Rice family, Although my time with Terry was brief in the Asheville Community Band, I had the pleasure of welcoming him to our band. He was an exceptional clarinet player and will be missed. May his soul rest in peace and all my prayers to his family as they transition through a challenging time. Sincerely, Cecelia(trumpet player)

–Cecelia Meredith



RIP Uncle Terry, reunited now with Aunt Margaret and Granda. You will be missed very much by us all. Thank you for all the pictures and stories over the years we had some laugh reliving it all. I'll cherish this very much. Thank you for looking our for Granny the way you did the last few years I know she will feel your loss the greatest. Look over Terry Greta Angie Kevin and all your beautiful grandkids.

–Nicola Rice

We both have great memories of the Rice family. Angie was in my day care f during her preschool years, and my husband played in the USMA band with Terry. We enjoyed their humor and. Friendship, God bless the family with fond memories. Gary and Peggy McCourry

–Gary and Peggy McCourry

I served with Terry at West Pt. in the clarinet section. He was a fine musician, family man, and soldier. His sense of humor and professionalism was always a boost to morale for all of those around him. I always found him approachable and helpful regardless of differences in rank. It was a privilege to serve with him.
- Allan Plumb

–Allan Plumb

Though our friendship was short, I am so glad to have known Terry. I so admired his clarinet playing and enjoyed talking with him in the Asheville Community Band. May he rest in peace. Carol

–Carol Talbot

SFC Terry Rice will be remembered by many fellow musicians of the United States Military Academy Band, West Point, for his outstanding musicianship and being a professional soldier

being a professional soldier.

–Wayne Anderson

To Terence, Greta, Kevin, and Angelene, We would like to say how sorry we were to hear of your Dad's passing and we are praying and thinking of what you are going through at this time. Terry was a great brother-in-law. He will be sadly missed but he is reunited with Margaret now and at peace. All our love and prayers to help you all will be continued. All our love from, Aunt Mary and Uncle Leonard, and cousins Leonard, Marion and Margaret

–Mary McKeown

I so enjoyed playing clarinet and sitting next to you in the Asheville Community Band. I will miss your friendly smile and happy outlook. Thank you for your service and rest easy.

–Terri blankenship



I met the Rice family back in 1974, not long after they came to America and Mr. Rice joined the USMA Band. I was fascinated by their wonderful brogue. Our families developed a friendship during those years in living in Band land. Many years later I ran into Mr. Rice at the South Gate Tavern where we shared a few pints and reminisced about those times at West Point. My heart goes out to Terry, Maria, Evangeline, Kevin and all who are mourning his passing.

–Joe Kirwin



Terry, Your infectious laugh , sense of humor and that thick Irish brogue....as one of your clarinet students, when I was in high school. You taught me so much, despite all the



laughs. Later reconnecting via FB and chit chatting on occasion. Will miss you my friend . You are with your forever love Margaret. I know you missed her so. Eternal rest my friend

–Christine Anderson Lyons



It was an honor to meet you Terry and to sit with you and Lynn at Grace church in Cape Coral FL. As a veteran myself, I would also like to thank you for your service. R.I.P. Terry

–Vicki Badke

Terry was a joy to work with at Broughton. Always cheerful and friendly. He will be missed

–Donna McClellan



Maria, Praying peace and comfort over you and your family. What joys your father is experiencing in the presence of God! Love Sharon

–Sharon Gilmore

Rest in eternal peace uncle Terry. You will be sorely missed by us all in belfast. I never got to make that trip over to visit you but I will visit your resting place one day. Xx

–Nicola O'Neill





–Tranchina family

Maria, As I read the beautiful testimony about your father's life, I know why you are the wonderful person that you are - it was passed down to you. I did not realize that your parents were born in Ireland (I have such a love of that land and hope to get back to visit some day). And that he played the clarinet - that was my instrument in high school band! He sounds like such a wonderful soul who has certainly shared his love with his family. Many prayers for you and the family as you move forward through your grief. I pray God's blessings over each of you and that you feel His strength and peace that only He can provide.

–Wendy Boone



Such an important man, (father) with a beautiful soul.
Always will I, remember Mr. Rice.

–Diana Marie Shumway



Rest in peace uncle Terry

–Christopher O'Neill



Uncle Terry was a great man that was well loved by all his Family here in Ireland. He is reunited with his loving Wife Margaret and brother Gerry. R.I.P Uncle Terry.

–Felix Rice

