



## Guy Raymond Sodano

August 6, 1938 - May 22, 2020

Lt. Col. (USA Retired) Guy R. Sodano, 81, of Holly Springs, died peacefully in his home after a long battle with prostate cancer.

Lt. Col. Sodano, a native of Newark, NJ, was commissioned a Lieutenant of Infantry in 1959 upon graduation from Seton Hall University, where he received a bachelor's degree in Communications Arts. While attending Seton Hall he worked nights as a full-time reporter for the Newark Star Ledger from his sophomore year to the beginning of his military service in May of 1960 covering several major stories including the Bayonne train wreck of 1958.

Lt Col. Sodano served in Europe during the Cold War and in Vietnam for two years. His decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, two bronze stars, four Meritorious Service Medals and the Army Commendation Medal. He was an honor graduate from the Infantry Officer's Career Course, the Vietnamese Language School, Computer Operations Course and the Command and General Staff School (Correspondence). He also attended Special Warfare School and the Armed Forces Staff College. He retired with 22 years of military service in 1982 following four years as an advisor to the North Carolina Army National Guard.

His assignments included almost three years as commander of a training company at Fort Dix, a mechanized infantry company and a division headquarters company in Europe. In Vietnam he served as an advisor to the Motivation Indoctrination Program of the Vietnamese Popular Forces/Regional Forces in I Corps and as commander of the 5th and 11th Public Information Detachments.

Assigned to Computer Systems Command Support Group Pacific, he was responsible for installing and training local personnel on third generation computer systems in Okinawa, Korea, Japan and Vietnam. He also was responsible for installing the Army Special Ammunition System in Germany.

He was the Director of Administration of the North Carolina Bar Association for the next 25 years, retiring in 2007. During his tenure he was the primary manager in upgrading their computer, administrative and financial reporting systems.

Lt Col. Sodano was exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam and was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2004, undergoing a prostatectomy, followed by drug and radium treatments. In 2017, he began treatment for advanced prostate cancer which continued until his death.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Shirley, his son, Guy of Holly Springs, his daughter, Laurie Bartolo, of Michigan; two grandchildren, Dominic and Anthony Sodano; and a brother, Ralph, a niece, Margaret and great-nephew, Christopher of Toms River, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Paralyzed Veterans of America ([PVA.org](http://PVA.org)).

# Cemetery Details

## Wake Memorial Park Cemetery

7002 Green Hope School Rd  
Cary, NC 27519  
(919) 465-0888  
<https://www.wakememorialpark.com/>

## Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

BT

“ It was January, 1969, when I met Guy Sodano at Fort Polk, La. He was an infantry officer, I a 23-year-old Private First Class. He was Deputy Chief of Staff in Post Headquarters, I a clerk in charge of an office a General created to monitor troop training. He was a career ROTC officer, I a two-year draftee.

I reported to then-Major Sodano, and though I didn't know it at the time, he would become one of the best — if not the best — supervisors I would ever have. When I joined the Fort Polk Command Group, Major Sodano (to this day I have difficulty calling him by his first name) laid out the ground rules. “Thomas,” he said, “you'll need three things to work here. You'll need a sense of humor. You'll need to keep a civilian attitude. And you'll need a haircut.” With that, a military relationship and a lifelong friendship were born.

Guy was a rare breed among Army officers. His intellect, understanding of human nature and military and personal bearing garnered instant admiration from officers and enlisted personnel alike. He commanded respect; there was no need to “demand” it — a difference too many fail to comprehend.

We shared many common interests. Among them a journalism background, an appreciation of history and a love of the game of chess. (I rarely defeated him on the checkered battlefield.)

Though our service together was all too brief — he was soon shipped to Vietnam for the second time — we were able, with brief interruptions, to maintain contact through the intervening five decades. I'll always remember and cherish the support and comfort he gave me during the illness and death of my son. As usual, he understood.

I am saddened by the loss of my friend, but memories of our friendship will remain forever.

God speed, Sir.

I'll miss you, Guy.

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**Bill Thomas** - June 07, 2020 at 09:19 PM

GM

“ Shirley, my heart breaks for you. I know how beloved your Guy is to you and I hope you find comfort knowing he was much beloved by so many. I was counting the years the other day and 25 years just wasn't enough. He watched my children grow up and he was as close to them as any close relative. They will always know him as Uncle Guy. Memories of time spent with you both is very much treasured. I will miss Guy's wisdom when you needed advice, his infectious wry humor when you needed a laugh, and most of all just the ease and comfort and happiness of spending time with him. I am a richer person for having known him and was blessed to share in his life. We will miss you Guy.

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**Ginger Moffitt** - June 06, 2020 at 11:08 PM

BB

“ Dear Shirley and former NCBA fellow employees: What an overwhelming shock to learn of Guy's death. He was truly a valued leader at the Bar when I was employed there. A fond memory of Guy was skill in orchestrating the overwhelming move from our Annapolis Drive, Raleigh location to the Cary, NC location. Guy had planned where/how every detail would take place, including even large-scale potted green plants. There were no hiccups. I felt privileged to be invited by Guy and Allan Head to be the fill-in receptionist at Annapolis Drive on the way out!! Guy was a person of commitment -- to his beloved wife Shirley, his own Dept. at the Bar, and to all of us as he filled in as #1 when needed. He made us all feel that he was there to backup Allan Head, as needed! He was never one to make a person feel "Small," as needs would surface to process through him. The military career served him well. I don't want to cry, but if I do, you will not know unless I tell you!!! Guy took care of his own staff and stepped in when Allan Head had to be absent from the building. One of his most admirable traits was his genuine love of Shirley. He always wanted the best for her, especially with her home location. The two of them willingly hosted gatherings at their home. (I loved seeing the wonderful photograph display of Shirley and him, along with other family members.) Being the details person that Guy was, it seems to me that the photograph display was presented in black frames of the same style -- no extra "fru-fru." I think Shirley will understand that Guy offered a level of comfort to every one of us! I don't believe I will ever be so fortunate as to know another man like Guy Sodano!!!

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**Becky Blankenship** - June 03, 2020 at 11:29 PM

RR

“ We lost a giant last week with the passing of Guy Sodano, our longtime director of administration at the North Carolina Bar Association. Thank you forever for your guidance and friendship. Russell Rawlings

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**Russell Rawlings** - May 27, 2020 at 04:31 PM

KV

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Kim Vaughan** - May 27, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ginny Ellen Craig - May 27, 2020 at 10:02 AM



“ What a beautiful tribute to such an accomplished, extraordinary man! Ben and I will surely miss him, just as we will our wonderful lunches together, visits over the backyard fence, and his always hopeful insights. We will treasure our Grinch poem forever!

Valerie Sutton - May 26, 2020 at 06:03 PM

AW

“ Guy was a great man whom I had the pleasure of working with at the NC Bar Association. I was a young lawyer, and I learned so much about life from him. He was so wise, and I was lucky to know him. I am sorry for your loss.

Anne Renee Winner - May 26, 2020 at 04:50 PM

SG

“ Guy was a truly welcoming, wonderful, warm-hearted person! He was one of the first to greet me when I arrived at the NC Bar Association as a newly minted lawyer and NCBA volunteer. He was a kind and guiding presence who worked hard and humbly. Thank you, Guy, for all the light you brought to the NCBA and to my life. Your memory and legacy will live on always.

Susan Giamportone - May 26, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ Shirley- I know you will miss him most of all. He was a tremendous force- when you had a friend in Guy- you had someone who had your back- no matter what. Guy stood up for me when no one else or could. He had backbone, opinion and a voice- and he wasn't afraid of any of them, no matter the cost. I lost a great friend and personal champion. He was ALWAYS the one in the room who was not going to let the bully win- and I treasure that memory. Thank you for sharing your husband, your dad, your uncle, your brother and your cousin with people who needed him. He loved you all more than he loved anything else. We are all better people because we knew him and he made us care about each other.

Heather Slinkard - May 26, 2020 at 01:03 PM

CC

“ God bless you Guy, you were always my best counsel when seeking information at the NC BAR, will never forget your kindness and humor. sending my love to Shirley and family RIP my friend 🙏

Connie Cofield - May 25, 2020 at 03:22 PM

MS

“ I will always remember my uncle guy I will always remember his happy-go-lucky personality. He was always happy always joking around he was a great guy and he will be very missed by all of us.

Margaret sodano - May 24, 2020 at 06:14 PM

KV

“ I worked with Guy for over 20 years. He was a great person with the best sense of humor. I always valued his opinion and appreciated his wise counsel. My thoughts and prayers are with Shirley and the family at this time. Love to all!

Kim Vaughan - May 24, 2020 at 05:10 PM

GC

“ I met Guy in 1982. He was hired 2 months after me, as my new boss. Little did I know the blessing he would be to me the next 38 years. At first I was scared of his rough exterior but soon came to realize he was a teddy bear in disguise. A wise & caring leader, a father figure after my Dad passed, and over time he became a close friend, along with his wife. He was a life force and confidant to so many, a character who could always make you laugh, even at yourself. He was a defender of the weak and lived to serve, all his life. My heart is broken. I will never forget this gentle, strong, wise man who gave me so much. I am part of his legacy which lives on. Love and prayers to his family and all that called Guy friend.

Ginny Craig - May 24, 2020 at 08:48 AM

GC

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Ginny Craig - May 24, 2020 at 08:35 AM