



George Edmund Koleszar

March 19, 2019

George Edmund Koleszar, age 77, of Manassas Virginia, died on 19 March, 2019 after a long battle with multiple cancers.

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Irene Marie (Hauck) Koleszar (a.k.a. The Ladybug Lady), and four children, Loretta and Michael (son-in-law) Rossomondo of Montclair, Virginia, John Koleszar of Williamsburg, Virginia, Jean Koleszar of Lake Ridge, Virginia, and Mary Ellen Koleszar of Floyd, Virginia, a brother Robert Koleszar and Dr. Elizabeth Pallan (sister-in-law) of Eldersburg, Maryland, and three grandchildren, Justine, Jack, and Joseph. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Thomas Koleszar, an Army combat veteran of Vietnam, and his wife Jenny.

George loved and cherished his family. His wife Irene and he loved the military life, and enjoyed that it afforded the opportunity to live overseas. They gathered friends from all over and still keep in touch to this day. The military life was not easy but with a supportive family it was truly fun. Family dinners were nightly, and game nights and family vacations were a must. Traveling was one of George's passions and he and Irene toured Germany (stationed there), and also went beyond its borders to Switzerland, France, Holland, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, and Luxembourg, The family went on a car trip nearly every Sunday while in Germany visiting all the historical Cathedrals, museums, and hiking the Alps. Stateside, he managed to visit all

50 states, primarily due to work and a few via vacation. Along the way he developed a passion for fine dining and good wines, especially French. He believed in higher education and offered the opportunity to all his kids and set up college savings accounts for his three grandchildren. Humor and laughing were a huge part of his life. Except for some of his career photographs, it's hard to find a picture without a warming smile or obvious laughter. George was also a philanthropist, helping many in tough financial spots and also donating monthly to various charities. He loved all of nature, especially animals with a particular fondness for birds. He lived his life devoted to his God, his family, helping those in need, and his country.

Dr. Koleszar, the son of the late George Emil Koleszar and Alice Angela (Nugent) Koleszar, was born in Newark, New Jersey, and grew up in Bloomfield, New Jersey. He attended St Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, and graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology with a BS degree in electrical engineering. He went on later to earn his MS degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, and a PhD degree from the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, also in electrical engineering.

Dr. Koleszar served in the United States Air Force for 20 years as a research and development engineer, a technical intelligence officer, a teacher, speech writer, and staff officer retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. His assignments included tours at the National Security Agency, Fort Meade Maryland where he helped design and develop electronic intercept equipment; the European Electronic Intelligence Center in Wiesbaden, Germany where he was Chief of Signals Analysis where his team analyzed electronic intercepts from air, land and sea platforms; Keesler Technical Training Center at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi Mississippi where he taught communications and information theory subjects, was the USAF Coordinator of the Telecommunications Management Graduate Degree Program, and was also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi; the Defense Communications

Agency in Arlington, Virginia where he was Chief of the Systems Integration Office and worked on improving communications and command and control systems for U.S. Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces; and the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon where he worked on improving the interoperability of tactical communications systems, and helped develop policy for employment of U.S. electronic warfare and C3 countermeasures and cyber warfare systems. Lt Col Koleszar's military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster (two awards), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

After deciding not to opt for a promotion to Colonel and continue his Air Force career, he retired from the Air Force in 1983. He continued his service at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), Alexandria Virginia, a not-for-profit Federally Funded Research and Development Center, where he served as a Research Staff Member, Assistant Director, and Director of the System Evaluation Division. He retired from IDA in 2008 for medical reasons. At IDA, Dr. Koleszar directed a number of important national security studies covering a plethora of system and program issues including electronic warfare, night vision capability for Special Operations Forces, command, control and communications systems, tactical aircraft systems, force structure cost-effectiveness, and various weapon and missile systems, but he was perhaps best known for his work on stealth (low observables) and long-range aircraft systems like the B-2, B-1B and B-52 where he led numerous studies and testified several times before Congressional Defense Subcommittees. While at IDA, Dr. Koleszar authored or co-authored over 40 classified papers and reports. He also graduated from the National and International Security Management Course for Senior Executives at Harvard University. In 1992, he received the IDA award for outstanding research.

During his career, Dr. Koleszar received awards for his research and teaching, and was a member of a number of numerous professional organizations including the Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (Life Member), Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Military Officers Association of America, and Air Force Association, to name a few.

The latter part of George's life was difficult. He battled bladder cancer, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, and an aggressive, invasive squamous cell carcinoma. He underwent numerous surgeries, chemotherapy infusions, radiation therapy, weekly drug injections, and transfusions for over a decade. Compounding the cancers, George had to endure extremely painful post herpetic neuralgia following a bout of adult chicken pox, and also suffered compression fractures of four vertebrae. The last few weeks of his life, he was in the hospital having contracted MRSA. He endured an array of tests resulting in another, inadvertently-broken vertebra. The bacteremia could not be resolved and started to affect his well-being. But he never complained, and instead tried to help other cancer patients with advice and guidance based on his own experiences. Doctors and nurses who treated George called him a survivor, a trooper, a fighter, and an extraordinary patient.

Dr. Koleszar wrote a paper guiding other cancer patients on how to deal with their cancer. It is not published with his name but is given out by the doctors and nurses to their patients at the Virginia Cancer Specialists institution.

George was a giving person and always gave back to the Church, people in need, and many charitable organizations. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Disabled American Veterans at <https://www.dav.org>.

The family will receive friends Sunday, March 24, 2019 from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at Miller Funeral Home, 3200 Golansky Blvd., Woodbridge, VA 22192. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, March 25, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 12975 Purcell Rd, Manassas, VA 20110. Interment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Tribute Wall



“ *George Edmund Koleszar*

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM

GK

“ A long time ago, as an Army lieutenant colonel, I was enjoying a fine lunch in the Pentagon cafeteria, sitting all by myself. I believe the special that day was hot dogs and potato chips. A fine-looking Air Force lieutenant colonel walked up to my table and asked if he could join me. I gladly welcomed him.

He introduced himself as George - the same first name as mine. I noticed his nametag - it read Koleszar - a very unusual name as I will explain in a moment. We had a nice conversation, mostly ribbing each other about the merits of Air Force versus Army prestige. We also talked a lot about our families and our heritage.

I liked him a lot, except for two aspects: first, he was an Air Force guy and, as everyone knows, they are the rookies in military service and can't hold a candle to the Army; and, second, his nametag had a misspelling. My grandfather had told me that "Koleszar" was the Slovak way to spell the surname. Real Americans spelled it "Kolesar", dropping the Z to show they were totally assimilated into the American culture. And my grandfather was always correct.

At my advanced age, I can afford to be lenient. I want George Koleszar's family to know that my brief encounter with him was exceptionally pleasurable and something I will never forget. His obituary describes him perfectly.

May he rest in peace,

George Kolesar

George Kolesar - March 30, 2019 at 08:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of George Edmund Koleszar.*



March 25, 2019 at 08:32 AM



“ *I met George and Irene on a Hudson River cruise, actually talking to George first recognizing Manassas on his name tag, having being trained at Quantico. Not realizing the trust he put in me with his first words "I'm dying" nor that he and his dear Irene and I would share such laughter since that time. If only we could clone such a gentleman and scholar! Pakala Bennett San Diego CA*

Pakala PK Bennett - March 24, 2019 at 02:54 PM



“ *George was the bravest man I know. He will forever have a special place in my heart.*

Mary Postma - March 23, 2019 at 10:02 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of George Edmund Koleszar.*



March 22, 2019 at 04:47 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of George Edmund Koleszar.*



March 22, 2019 at 01:54 PM



“ *CDR Edward Ettner, USN (retired) and family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of George Edmund Koleszar.*



CDR Edward Ettner, USN (retired) and family - March 22, 2019 at 12:39 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of George Edmund Koleszar.*



March 22, 2019 at 11:53 AM

BR

“ I only met George a few times however I knew from talking with my brother Larry and my sister in law Lorie what an accomplished, fun loving family man he is. And a warrior ! The ailments he bravely dealt with attest to his strength. What an inspiration he is to so many ... family, friends, others suffering like he did. God Bless You George. Congratulations on a Life so fully and well Lived ! ❤️✝️🙏



Bob Rossomondo - March 22, 2019 at 11:47 AM



“ Bobbi Rawlings lit a candle in memory of George Edmund Koleszar



Bobbi Rawlings - March 21, 2019 at 04:38 PM

MA

“ Irene, and family. I just finished reading George's obit...all I can say is wow, wow, and wow! What a legacy he leaves behind with all of his accomplishments! All of you must be so proud of him Though he'll be missed, he'll always be just a memory away, and I know you have many! His spirit will live in your hearts forever. The few times that I was around him, he seemed so kind, and generous...and lovingly catered to you Irene! May God wrap his arms around you and your family as you go on without your husband, father, and friend in your daily lives. Blessings to all!

Mary Alexander - March 21, 2019 at 04:37 PM

YF

“ *Your loving brother Bob and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of George Edmund Koleszar.*



Your loving brother Bob and Family - March 21, 2019 at 08:14 AM