

Allen Grum Obituary

Brigadier General (Retired) Allen "Al" Frederick Grum, aged 93, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2024 at Riderwood Village, Silver Spring, MD. The oldest child, Al was born on October 6, 1931 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to his father, Major Allen Ferdinand Grum, and mother, Nathalie Cate Grum. As an Army Brat, the family moved often, but Al's formative years were spent in San Antonio, where his father was stationed. He attended Thomas Jefferson High School alongside his brother Clifford Grum and sister Sue (Grum) Redding.

Al received a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated at the top of his class in 1953. He was commissioned into the Engineer Corps, and served in Korea, France, Germany, Vietnam, and various stateside assignments. Along the way, he earned a master's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a PhD at Stanford University. His final assignment was the Head of the Engineering Department at the Academy.

While stationed at Fort Campbell KY, Al met his future wife, Sydney Jane Patterson, on a blind date. She was a nursing student at Vanderbilt University, and they were married shortly thereafter in 1956 in Aiken, SC. Early in their marriage, they travelled throughout Europe in a VW bug while stationed in Bordeaux France and then Heidelberg Germany. They returned to West Point briefly, and then Jane moved their five young children to Aiken SC while Al was in Vietnam leading the 589th Engineer battalion. The couple made numerous more moves during Al's 34-year career and at all stops along the way, kept an open door, open arms and open hearts to their many military friends.

After his retirement from the Army in 1987, Al's next career combined his two passions: Teaching and Service to his country. Al, with Jane by his side, took on the challenge of starting a new Engineering school at Mercer University, in

Macon, GA. Al and Jane spent many happy years there, and his influence on the students he taught is immeasurable. He was also an active member of the Army Science Board and while on sabbatical worked at the Army Research Labs in Adelphi, MD and Raleigh, NC mentoring teams of world renowned scientists doing critical research for the military.

Al and Jane eventually retired from Mercer University and moved to Atlanta, GA, before their final move to Riderwood Village in Silver Spring, MD. They enjoyed travelling, taking cruises throughout the world, and the company of their children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Al is preceded in death by his parents, Major Allen Ferdinand Grum and Mrs. Nathalie Cate Grum, as well as his brother, Clifford Julien Grum. He is survived by his sister, Sue Redding; his wife, Jane Patterson Grum; and his children Allen "Pete" Grum Jr (Jessica Grum), David Grum, Pat Grum (Mary Grum), Colonel (Ret.) Stacey Grum Koff (Jonathan Koff) and COL (Ret.) Carrie (Grum) Benton (RADM (Ret.) Bruce Doll). His grandchildren include Catelyn Koff Wood (Chris Wood), Isabelle Koff, Matthew Koff, Sydney Benton, Specialist Charlie Benton (Rielly Benton), Captain Maxwell Grum, Nathaniel Grum, and Ian Grum. His great grandchildren include Atlas Benton and Jay Benton.

He will be remembered for his significant career accomplishments and his patriotism, but more so for his love of his family, especially his wife Jane, his wonderful sense of humor, and the relationships he forged and cultivated throughout his long life.

Al will receive a military burial at West Point on February 13, 2025. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Fisher House Foundation (<https://www.fisherhouse.org/>) in support of military families.