



Alton A. Kimball

December 12, 1935 - August 9, 2017

Lakeland – Mr. Alton A Kimball, 81, passed away on Wednesday, August 9, 2017. He was born on December 12, 1935 in Plaquemine, Louisiana. As a Cajun, his first language was French and he didn't learn to speak English until he started school. In March of 1954, Alton joined the U.S. Navy. He met his wife, Joan, in New York and they married in 1959. During his career, which spanned over 20 years, he served aboard five different ships. He also did a tour teaching NROTC at Rice University in Houston, Texas, as well as a tour teaching Navigation at OCS in New Port, Rhode Island. The highlight of his career was his service aboard the carrier, USS Shangri-La, when he made a one year long world cruise.

Alton retired from the U.S Navy as a Senior Chief Quartermaster. Upon retirement in 1974, Alton moved with his family to Polk County, Florida, where he served as a Junior ROTC Instructor at Auburndale High School. During this time, he attended college at night, graduating, with honors, from Florida Southern College in 1979, with an Elementary Education Degree. He then began his second career teaching emotionally handicapped students.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; son, Steven A. (Rebecca) Kimball; daughters, Alesia K. Riggall, Michelle K. Finley; sister, Margaret K. Martinez; 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Alton was a member of Saint Anthony's Catholic Church.

Visitation with the family will be Saturday, Aug. 12th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at Gentry-Morrison Funeral Home at Serenity Gardens, 3350 Mall Hill Dr. The

funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, 10:30 am at Saint Anthony's Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Florida National Cemetery. Condolences to the family may be offered at www.gentry-morrison.com

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Ave.
Bushnell, FL 33513

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **12.** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel
3350 Mall Hill Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
(863) 858-4474
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Graveside with Military Honors

AUG **14.** 1:30 AM - 1:45 AM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Ave.
Bushnell, FL 33513

Funeral Service

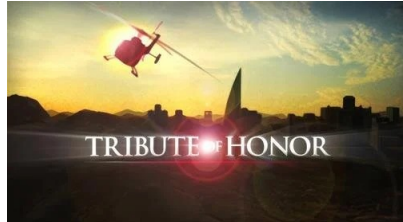
AUG **14**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
820 Marcum Road
Lakeland, FL

Tribute Wall



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Alton A. Kimball



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - August 11, 2017 at 03:13 PM

AG

What a beautiful, fitting tribute to a great and wonderful man and family. Rest In Peace, cousin. Love you all. Take care.

Alice Lemoine Goudeau - August 11, 2017 at 05:00 PM

JD

“ To the Kimball family,
I just learned of Chief Kimball's passing today. I was honored to have served aboard the Shangri La with Chief Kimball, from August 1968 to October 1969. He was a wonderful mentor and example to the men he supervised; he difinately had a very positive impact on this sailor's life. I'm very sorry for your loss, but please know that I am a living example of the many lives that the Chief strongly influenced. He was a great man!

*James M. Dall, QM2
Spring, TX*

Jim Dall - March 26, 2018 at 05:48 PM

MT

“ *Mack Truluck sent a virtual gift in memory of Alton A. Kimball*



Mack Truluck - August 13, 2017 at 08:31 PM

MT

“ *A wonderful man who touched many lives while serving his country, community and family in a life lived so well from a small rural area to many parts of the world.*

Mack Truluck - August 13, 2017 at 07:37 AM



“ *20 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - August 11, 2017 at 02:13 PM



“ 30 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - August 11, 2017 at 01:10 PM

JJ

“ *Dear Kimball Family,
Our love and our prayers surround you as you gather and
remember this kind and gentle spirited man who meant so much to
all. We feel so blessed that through Steve & Rebecca our paths
crossed. We celebrate a wonderful life and ask GOD for comfort in
the days ahead. All our love, The Jay Juren Family*

Jennifer Juren - August 11, 2017 at 09:56 AM

TM

“ *Our deepest sympathies for your loss. Love, Aunt Elline & family*

Theresa Matthews - August 11, 2017 at 08:44 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Alton A. Kimball.*



August 10, 2017 at 09:15 PM

RM

“ *Ruben Martinez purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Alton A. Kimball.*



Ruben Martinez - August 10, 2017 at 09:06 PM

BN

“ *Always made you feel you were the most important person speaking to him. Made no apologies about how very precious Joan was to him and how very much they loved each other. I am glad he is in heaven watching over all of us now, can think of no one better. He will be missed.*

Brenda Noor - August 10, 2017 at 09:01 PM

MJ

“ *Margaret, Jill, Janay purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Alton A. Kimball.*



Margaret, Jill, Janay - August 10, 2017 at 09:00 PM

TF

“ *The Avallone Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Alton A. Kimball.*



The Avallone Family - August 10, 2017 at 06:01 PM

RA

“Great man. Great husband, father, grandfather and Patriot. I remember as kid visiting my Aunt Joanie and Uncle Kim. He would give me a history lesson. Show me books and maps on Navy and the U.S. The Avallone's Salute you Sir.

Robert A. Avallone - August 10, 2017 at 04:33 PM

LA

“My memory is a memory of a lifetime. Alton was like a brother to me, not a brother in law, a man who treated me like one of his children. He welcomed me into his home at any time and was the most pleasant and respectful men I have ever met. He afforded me the opportunity to step out of the Bronx and experience Navy family life in Naples, Italy, Rhode Island, Houston, Texas, and Florida. He introduced me to the music of Floyd Kramer, Patsy Kline and Glenn Miller. His stories of life on a farm were the most interesting and I think he taught every child in the family how to count money. Children loved him, animals loved him and anyone who met him, loved him.

He was a very accomplished man, but yet so humble. He made the best pot of coffee ever. He was a true patriot.

I can attest to being fortunate enough to witness a love story that was lived Till Death do us part. Alton was the core of this wonderful family. He treated my sister and his children with the utmost respect and consideration. He was a supportive and loving husband, a life partner that sacrificed all for his family. He was the epitome of a grandfather, brother, and uncle. He was an obedient patient. He was kindness!

Alton will be sorely missed by all. He has left behind the greatest legacy, his family!

Smooth Sailing, Chief.....

Lorraine Avallone - August 10, 2017 at 04:13 PM