



Stanley "OJ" Olenjack

March 13, 1946 - March 10, 2024

Stanley "OJ" Olenjack, age 77, of Bradley passed away Sunday, March 10, 2024 at Riverside Medical Center Emergency Room in Kankakee. He was born on March 13, 1946 in Chicago, the son of Stanley Sr. & Angeline (Bartosick) Olenjack.

Stanley attended grade school and high school in Chicago. He enlisted into the United States Marine Corps in November of 1965, and was discharged in January of 1978. He is a combat veteran of the Vietnam war, earning a purple heart medal and other decorations during his tour of duty in the Marine Corps. Stanley was a 100% disabled combat veteran.

He married Vicki Karr on September 11, 1987, and they had two children, a daughter, Katherine Olenjack, and a son, Adam Karr.

He worked as a store manager at several retail stores in Chicago, and the south suburbs, and retired from Shapiro Developmental Center in 2008, where he was a lead cook 2.

Stanley was an advocate to veterans in the community. He dedicated himself to helping his fellow veterans. He belonged to several veterans' organizations. Stanley is the past commandant of the Kankakee County Marine Corps League Detachment 1253, past chairman of the Manteno Veterans Home

Advisory Council, past chairman for the state of Illinois Veterans Advisory Council with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, and past chairman of the Kankakee County Veterans Assistance Commission. He was currently serving as the Commander of the Kankakee County Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 34. As a member of the Marine Corps league, he was the color guard and rifle squad commander, and the VAVS representative of the Marine Corps League for the Manteno Veterans Home. Stanley was a leader in the area's Kankakee Veterans Council and had organized and was the Master of Ceremonies for both the Kankakee Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

Stanley is survived by his wife, Vicki Olenjack of Bradley; daughter, Katherine of NY; son, Adam (Tonya) Karr of San Francisco, CA; three grandchildren, Alex, Dani, and Zach, all of San Francisco, CA; two sisters, Mary Ann Purpura of Plainfield and Angie (Rudy) Schuh of Palatine; and one brother, Robert (Lucy) Olenjack of Itasca. Stanley is preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded. There will not be a visitation wake service or formal funeral, as Stanley desired not to have such events. There will be a memorial gathering at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Kankakee County Veterans Assistance Commission to help assist the most needy veterans in our community.

Inurnment with military rites will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood..

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Inurnment

APR 8. 12:30 PM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall

TP

“ Stan was a fierce advocate for all veterans, but especially the ones living at the Manteno Veterans Home. He pulled no punches when it came to their care and well being while also serving as an appointed member of the Illinois Veterans Advisory Council. I was proud to serve at his side and am sad to lose one of my favorite Marines.

Rest in peace Marine, we have the watch.

Terry Prince, U.S. Navy Corpsman and Director, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

Terry Prince - April 06, 2024 at 07:27 PM

JW

“ "OJ" was a long-time brother / member of the USMC Vietnam Tankers Association. He will be sorely missed. God speed and may you sit on the right hand of the Lord now and forever more.. We will reunite with you in Heaven.

Semper Fidelis

*John Wear
Pres. USMC VTA*

John Wear - March 22, 2024 at 03:11 PM

JM

“ I known Stan. Ever since I had joined the Marine Corps League those many years ago. I have known him to be an exceptional individual that I will not forget soon.

Joseph & Melody Mayfield - March 18, 2024 at 10:37 AM

DK

“ I met Stan through my grandmother, who had volunteered for many years at Manteno Veteran’s Home and then saw him regularly at the gym. I’m forever grateful to him for helping gather a group of veterans to take my dissertation research survey. I admired Stan for his service and his passion for helping other veterans. Rest in peace, Stan.

Debbie Kimberlin - March 17, 2024 at 08:50 PM

HJ

“ I served with him in the Marine Corps League he was a great friend and Marine, he will be missed by all of the Marines in the League. Rest well my brother



Harlan Judd - March 17, 2024 at 08:14 PM

GN

“ It was always great to see Stan at local community events. He represented his USMC proudly and with a quiet dignity. I would try to talk with him at each appearance because he was such a wonderful man and always had encouraging words to his friends. Years later, Stan was my go-to guy for advice for anything veteran related while I served on the Kankakee County Board, and while I campaigned for State Rep, because Stan told the truth and spoke openly. We will all miss his tall thin frame standing proudly in his colors at community events. Godspeed Stan. Glenn Nixon

Glenn Nixon - March 17, 2024 at 06:57 AM

AM

“ I knew Stanley at the gym for many years. He was a great human, always wanting to help others. God took a good one. RIP friend.

Amy - March 16, 2024 at 06:34 AM

AK

“ Alex Karr lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Alex Karr - March 15, 2024 at 03:29 PM

DW

RIP OJ... a truly STAN UP guy. Your passing leaves a tremendous hole in humanity!

Dave West - March 15, 2024 at 09:16 PM

SM

“ Shawn Mann lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Shawn Mann - March 14, 2024 at 10:41 PM

LH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Larry Hogue - March 14, 2024 at 04:07 AM

RD

Dear Stan! We are so sad to hear that you have left us!! We always enjoyed seeing you at our reunions. It was MY pleasure to have served with you in Viet Nam. good and not always good times buddy. R.I.P. Stan. You will always remain in our hearts and memories. We will always speak well of you my friend.

*Ron Snoopy Davidson
Bravo 34*

Ron & Jo Davidson - March 14, 2024 at 01:52 PM

CG

“ Had the pleasure knowing and attending Veterans Day services with Stan over the years; a dedicated, true-blue, proud veteran in the highest regard ! 🇺🇸
RIP Stan !! God Bless to Stan’s family ...



Carl Gerdovich - March 13, 2024 at 07:16 PM

JC

“ Judy And John Cooper lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Judy and John Cooper - March 13, 2024 at 09:31 AM

CW

“ Very nice person. Rip Stanley.



Cheryl Wilson - March 12, 2024 at 07:06 PM

AJ

“ Annie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Annie Johnson - March 12, 2024 at 04:42 PM

WG

“ Walt & Maria Gwaltney lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Walt & Maria Gwaltney - March 12, 2024 at 04:39 PM

TD

“ Teri Dahn lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Teri Dahn - March 12, 2024 at 03:38 PM

SD

“ Sharon Davis lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Sharon Davis - March 12, 2024 at 02:55 PM

TD

“ Stan was a fellow Marine and friend. He served honorably and faithfully his Nation, community, and Corps. He was truly "Semper Fidelis." RIP, Marine. Heaven's gates are guarded by our Comrades!

Thomas Valentine Draude - March 12, 2024 at 11:35 AM

TP

“ Terry Prude lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Terry prude - March 12, 2024 at 10:50 AM

JE

“ Julie Enright lit a candle in memory of Stanley "OJ" Olenjack



Julie Enright - March 11, 2024 at 04:55 PM