



Melvin R. Hecker

November 19, 1946 - May 25, 2021

Dr. Melvin R. Hecker Jr., husband of Jayne Hecker, passed away at his home on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. Born November 19, 1946 in Chicago, IL, he was the son of the late Melvin R. Hecker Sr. and the late Magdalen Kiernan Hecker.

Mel and Jayne were married in 1972 and traveled extensively, including jaunts through Europe, Africa, and Israel. They both graduated with nursing degrees in 1979 and Mel received his B.A. Degree from Purdue University in Indiana in 1981. He attended medical school at the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, IA and received a degree in Osteopathic Medicine in 1985. Upon completion of his Emergency Medicine Residency in York, Pennsylvania, he commissioned as an officer in 1987 at Shepard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX. The couple moved to Conway, SC in 1990 where Dr. Hecker practiced at Conway Hospital (Conway Medical Center) until his retirement in 2011. He has been a parishioner of St. James Catholic Church in Conway, SC since 1990. He served as a medical director of Horry County EMS and Surfside Beach Rescue Squad and participated in other health needs within the community. Mel honorably served in the U.S Air Force as Air Police during two tours in Vietnam. After separating from enlisted service in 1969, he commissioned as an officer and physician in 1987, attaining the rank of Captain until his final separation in 1990. His decorations include the Chief Physicians Badge, Vietnam Service Medal with six oak leaf

clusters, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and three oak leaf clusters, among numerous others.

In addition to his parents, Melvin and Magdalen Kiernan Hecker, Mel was preceded in death by his brother, James Hecker and his in-laws, Robert Christensen and Genevieve Pocius Christensen. Survivors include his loving wife of 49 years, Jayne Alyce Christensen Hecker; his children, Aaron James Hecker and his wife Jennifer, and Sarah Jayne Hecker Garvey and her husband James; his grandchildren, Rhianna Lynn Phillips, Emily Michele Garvey, Rebecca (Becca) Lee, Lauren Lee, Nicolas Lee, Allyson Jayne Hecker, and Cameron Michael Hecker; his siblings, Raymond Hecker and his wife Penelope, Dr. Richard Hecker and his wife Dr. Kelly Spence, Dr. Eileen Hecker Bardolph and Alan Black, Kathleen Hecker Anderson and her husband Dr. Joseph Anderson, Dr. Roger Hecker and his wife Jennifer, Robert Hecker and his wife Melissa, Dr. Maureen Hecker Rodriguez and her husband Julio; a special cousin, Ronald Hecker and his wife Judith; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other extended family.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 3:00PM Friday, May 28, 2021 St. James Catholic Church, officiated by Father Oscar Borda. Burial with Military Honors will take place at a later date at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Veteran Organizations Tunnel 2 Towers via phone at (718) 987-1931 or email at donationsupport@tunnel2towers.org or Gary Sinise Foundation at 1-(800) 959-TAPS(8277) or email at donor@garysinisefoundation.org

In accordance with current guidelines, face masks will be required at the mass.

Please sign the online guest register at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, is in charge of the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach Road
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Mass

MAY **28**. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. James Catholic Church
1071 Academy Drive
Conway, SC 29526
<http://www.stjamesconway.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ I am so sorry about the loss of Dr. Melvin Hecker. I always knew him as Studs. We were born on the same day. We lived next door to each other on the Southside of Chicago. My Mother, LaVergne Thornton, and Mrs. Hecker were very close friends & neighbors for many years. I have Wonderful childhood memories thanks to the Hecker Family. May Eternal Rest Grant Dr. Melvin R. Hecker -
Maureen Thornton Smith and Thornton Family

Maureen T. Smith - May 17, 2024 at 08:24 PM



“ Farewell Mel! We were brothers in arms and in healing ... we both took the oath ... until we meet again Rick

Doc Hecker - June 01, 2021 at 06:49 AM



“ Mel, my older Brother and Friend.... you will always be in my heart and in my prayers.

Godspeed in Paradise!

Ray

Ray Hecker - May 27, 2021 at 11:46 PM

RH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Robert Hecker - May 27, 2021 at 09:20 PM

RH

We will miss you big brother, say hello to Mom,Dad and Jimmy

Robert Hecker - May 27, 2021 at 09:21 PM



Amen Brother All of the Catholic Priests and Nun in your and our lives, are proud that you have become Saint Mel Hecker II , in our family! We'll take care of your family remaining here on Earth !

Ray Hecker - May 28, 2021 at 12:13 AM



Magdalen (Madge) Kiernan Hecker (Mom's 75th Birthday Celebration - New Orleans, LA, USA

Ray Hecker - June 02, 2021 at 05:00 PM

MM

“ Heaven has welcomed another of the our Hecker Clan. He joins Mom, Dad, and Jim and our extended family who have departed us all too soon.

Mel (Studs) has earned his place in paradise. He served his country, loved his wife and family, and cared for many in his roles as nurse then physician. He was a man of faith and God will watch over him and his family.

Until we meet again big brother ! Thank you for all of the wonderful memories and experiences that nothing can erase.

Vaya Con Dios Mi Hermano !

All our love to Jayne , Aaron/Jen, Sarah/Jim and kids. We are here always for you!

Love,

Mo , Julio, Andres, Sophia, Eric ,and Gabby

Maureen Hecker-Rodriguez, MD - May 27, 2021 at 06:59 PM

MK

“ *Mo/Julio; Eil/Alan; Bob/Missy; Roger/Jen; Kath/Joe purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Melvin R. Hecker.*



Mo/Julio; Eil/Alan; Bob/Missy; Roger/Jen; Kath/Joe - May 27, 2021 at 06:47 PM

SB

“ *Sammy Branton sent a virtual gift in memory of Melvin R. Hecker*



Sammy Branton - May 27, 2021 at 09:58 AM

DU

“ So sorry to hear this sad news about Mel. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May he rest in eternal peace.

Don & Lisa Urban



Don & Lisa Urban - May 26, 2021 at 03:18 PM

CA

“ Heaven gained a special man our friend Dr. Hecker. He was loved by many and a true friend to all. He Will be missed as our neighbour.

Carey and Cynthia Alford - May 26, 2021 at 01:55 PM

CA

“ Carey And Cynthia Alford sent a virtual gift in memory of Melvin R. Hecker



Carey and Cynthia Alford - May 26, 2021 at 01:45 PM