

Charles S. (Chuck) Haefflinger

Lt. Col. US Army (Retired)

August 31, 1947 - February 3, 2025

Lt. Col. Charles S. Haefflinger, age 77, of Chino Hills, California died February 3, 2025. He was the loving husband of the late Sharon Jahner Haefflinger for 46 years. Charles was born in Chicago, Illinois to the late Lt. Col. William R. Haefflinger and the late Marie Ann (nee Banik) Haefflinger. He was the elder brother of sisters Suzanne Bromberek, Marsha (Timothy) Smunt and AnnMarie (Michael) Sobun. Chuck was the proud uncle and great-uncle to several nieces and nephews.

Chuck began his 32-year career in the Army two weeks after his 18th birthday by enlisting in the Army ROTC program at Loyola University in Chicago.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, he graduated from the Infantry Officer Basic Course before attending flight school. His assignments included service in Vietnam and Honduras. He retired in 1998 as Lieutenant Colonel. During his career, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, five Meritorious Service Medals among others.

After Chuck retired, he became actively involved in numerous veterans associations and was Mentor Emeritus for Reaching New Heights Foundation, which assists veterans transitioning from active duty, incarceration, or homelessness. Chuck and his wife Sharon, who died in 2021, were charter members of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, leading the Married Couples Club and becoming parish leaders for the development fund program. Chuck co-directed the Living Stations of the Cross for many years. While participating in the Chino Hills Neighborhood Network Program Chuck learned about neighborhood problem solving, city resources, and municipal government. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11546 in Chino Hills and often shared his military experiences at community events and with high school students. He was a founder of the Chino Hills 55+ Club, serving on its Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee, and led their veteran's group's tribute brick fundraiser for the military monument at the Chino Hills Community Center.

While he was an avid sports enthusiast, Chuck also had a true love of service. His life was devoted in service to God, service to Country and service to Community.

Visitation for both Chuck and Sharon Haefflinger will be held March 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Chino Hills, California, followed by 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, also at St. Paul's. Following the morning services, their inurnment ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Pomona Valley Habitat for Humanity, Elder Warrior Program-San Luis Obispo, Front Sight Military Outreach, Ontario, California and Reaching New Heights Foundation, Riverside, California.

Sharon Jahner Haefflinger

June 13, 1949 - January 26, 2021

Sharon Jahner Haefflinger, age 71, died unexpectedly of an intestinal rupture on January 26, 2021. She was born in Dickinson, North Dakota, on June 13, 1949, the first child of the late Paul and the late Perpetua (Pat) Jahner. Sharon grew up in Mott, North Dakota, graduating Mott's Lincoln High School, and the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. Her first employer was the American Red Cross, supporting US Army personnel in South Korea and Missouri. In December 1974, Sharon wed Chuck Haefflinger of Chicago, Illinois. During 1975, Central Missouri State University awarded her a Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling. For three years, she taught 5th grade at Saint Angela School in Chicago.

After moving to California in 1979, Sharon first worked as a substitute teacher for the Huntington Beach School District and later with education publishers Harcourt, Brace & World, Sharon researched, edited, and composed elementary school and high school textbooks. In 1986, Sharon became a charter member of Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Chino Hills, serving as the inaugural Co-President of the Married Couples Club, co-leader of the Extraordinary Ministry, a fund-raising team leader, a Religious Education instructor, plus other parish involvements. In 1987, she returned to the classrooms to teach students (her real love) at Saint Lucy's Priory High School in Glendora. During her 30 years of distinction at Saint Lucy's, the majority of Sharon's spiritual ministry work was focused there - as teacher, director of the Kairos Religious Retreat program, founder of the Haefflinger School of Journalism, Faculty Development Mentor, WASC coordinator and evaluator, plus several academic committees. Full of love, kindness, determination, humor, and positivity, Sharon blazed trails for thousands of "her girls" during 30 years before retiring in 2018.

Sharon leaves behind her loving husband of forty-six years, Chuck, her siblings Wayne (Lori) Jahner of Goodyear, Arizona, Laura (Abdul) Kabir of Irvine, California, Janice (the late Richard) Meade of Chandler, Arizona, and Allan (Janey) Jahner of Casselberry, Florida. She was the fond aunt of Kari Jahner, Daniel Jahner, Michael Jahner, Kelly Jahner, Iskandar Kabir, Stephen Meade and the late Bruce Meade, the late Brian Meade and the late Brendan Meade. She loved making others laugh, the cinematic arts, all things patriotic, the Dodgers, and attending God's presence within those around her. Sharon genuinely lived a life of Christian spirituality, leadership by example, and classy sophistication with natural ease.

Visitation will be held March 6, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Chino Hills, California, followed by 10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, also at St. Paul's. Inurnment will be at 1:00 p.m. at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to St. Lucy's Priory High School, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church and Pomona Valley Habitat for Humanity.

