

KIRTZ, JAMES PHILIP `54

Died 12 March 2012 at the University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, He was 76.

Retired from the US Air Force in 1975, from the U.S. Capitol Police Force on disability in 1985, and from the Myrtle Beach, SC Airport Security Detail after five year.

Phil was a member of the VFW, Fraternal Order of Police, Moose Lodge.

He is survived by his wife, Billie Joan of Stuarts Draft; a brother, two daughters, Mary Ann Kirtz of Leonardtown, MD and Anna Maria Smith of Springfield, VA; a stepson, David McLain of Loris, SC; a stepdaughter, Ellen McLain of Long, SC; and two grandchildren.

At Augusta two years: 2nd Lieutenant, Headquarters Company, baseball.

He wrote Bob Bradford, Editor of the *Bayonet*.

“I have enjoyed your emails immensely and I feel like the "old man" compared to the ages of those who have been writing. My thanks go out to you and those who helped you revive the spirit of AMA. The

training and discipline I received during my years there were instrumental in deciding the path I would take toward a very rewarding career.

“ I went on to a career in the US Air Force with service in Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Okinawa, and finally retired in Washington, DC in 1975. I remained in DC and accepted an appointment to the US Capitol Police where I remained until forced to retire on disability in 1985 due to a physical condition which restricted my ability to handle a firearm.

“During those years in Washington I attended classes at the University of Maryland and University of DC and after years of full time employment and full time school, earned a degree in Criminology. I didn't do much of anything until January 1987, we moved to Conway, SC, near Myrtle Beach to be near my wife's family.

“For the next eight years I sold real estate for a Century 21 company and also a country club. The pay was good but I always felt uncomfortable with this new career. Actually I was out of my niche because I loved law enforcement and the comradery which law enforcement officers share.

“An opening became available at the Myrtle Beach International Airport Security Operations Center and I jumped on it. They liked my

resumé and I was accepted. I remained there for the next five years as I had attained minimum age and time vested for retirement. The wife's folks had since moved to Tampa, Fl and there was nothing to hold us in SC so we decided to return to Virginia. Our home in Conway sold in three weeks, so we had to move quickly. We knew where we wanted to settle but finding the right house was a little more difficult.

“After beating the bushes and with a lot of help from family already living here, we found it in Stuarts Draft, Va., about 12 miles from Staunton, seven miles from Waynesboro, and three miles from the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains. The rest is history. Since we moved here, emergency 911 was implemented in the local area and our street address changed and the change is indicated below. Also, I have not received a copy of the *Bayonet* but would like one. Keep up the good work and thank you again for giving back those memories of the 'good old days'." (10/7/2001)

(2013 Summer *Bayonet*)