



## Jack Gale Joplin

May 23, 1939 - February 26, 2021

Command Sergeant Major Jack G. Joplin, US Army, was born 23 May 1939 in Bromide, Oklahoma. He joined the US Army in 1961. After completing basic training at Fort Hood, Texas where he trained in infantry skills, he served in the 501st Battle Group, 82nd Airborne Division, and 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173 Airborne Brigade. After graduating the Special Forces Qualification Course as a Special Forces Medic, he served in 6th, 3rd, 5th, 1st, and 10th Special Forces Groups, as well as the Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta. From 1967-1991 he provided Non-Commissioned Officer leadership at every level of Special Operations, from Senior Medical Sergeant to Battalion Command Sergeant Major. His service included two tours in Vietnam, as well as overseas assignments in Germany and Okinawa. He participated in Operation Ivory Coast, the attempt to rescue prisoners of war held in the Son Tay prison camp located 23 miles outside of Hanoi. Additionally, in April 1980 he participated in Operation Eagle Claw, the attempt to rescue Americans taken hostage in the wake of the Iranian Revolution.

CSM Joplin's awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" and Oak Leaf Cluster, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Medic Badge, Special Forces Tab, and Master Parachutist Badge.

<https://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/militaryhof/inductee.php?id=284>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 13. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel  
1601 Henry Street  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 582-7931  
guntersvillememorial@gmail.com

## Service

MAR 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall

JP

“ Jack, was a terrific person, and have many great memories of Jack while in the 82nd and following his career. The world has lost a great teacher, leader, and hero.

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**joe pettograsso** - May 23, 2021 at 08:59 PM

BW

“ Jack was my Dad and my hero. I am blessed to have a lifetime of memories of my awesome Dad. From my earliest memories in Fayetteville of my Dad taking naps with me while I tried to match my breathing with his (I had to take two to three breaths to his one), to early memories on Okinawa where he took my sister's and I to John Wayne movies and taught us to swim, to Delta Force parties where I watched him run foot races against much younger soldiers (and beat them), to the Bad Toltz years where he and Colonel Katz had a swimming race that began with Dad jumping in the pool and immediately losing his swim trunks so he swam and won the race in the nude, to the Ft Lewis years where I didn't see him much but always knew he was a phone call away, to the Key West years- so many awesome memories! My favorite is when he took me spear fishing at a jetty. We kept watching a large bull shark circling by. When I attempted to shoot a fish the shark dove after my spear to collect the fish it thought I shot. I dropped the gun, swam to my dad and informed him I was going back to the boat and he could get his speargun I had left back with the shark. He laughed- was so patient with me. I was also there when he taught some kids to do a backflip in the nude! My Dad was a character, but so much more. He was a bad ass, but the most humble man I've known. There will never be anyone else like him. I'm glad he touched so many lives, because he made the world better with his presence. I hope we all can do the same to honor him.

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**Becky Warren** - March 13, 2021 at 12:04 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jack Gale Joplin.*



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March 11, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about Jack. I remember the very first time I met him. I was brand new to the SFUWO community, 1993. There was a party at the pool and as we walked into the pool area there was a man standing on the edge of the pool with two kids. Teaching them to do a backflip (If you know him you know what he was wearing!) I met both Kat and Jack that day. He was such a kind and funny man, I remember his boat. It was one he dragged up from the bottom of the water and salvaged. and he loved to go spearfishing, punching away any sharks who came for an easy meal. Always a smile to greet you. Jack, will be long remembered by everyone who knew him. My most sincere condolences to everyone who lost him, Big hugs to Kat, Rest in Peace Jack.*



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Lynn Leonard - March 07, 2021 at 12:26 PM

EL

“ My SGM, my friend, my brother you will be missed but not forgotten. God Bless You, Kat and Family. We lost a husband and brother that lived on principles not held by many, he was truly a quiet professional; not because of the Green Beret he wore but by the character of the man who wore it. Jack was a rarity, the most down-to-earth SGM, and the most awesome person to be around. I had the privilege of being under him in Bad Toelz and then again, in Key West, keep those Blue Marlins and Red Snappers pouring Jack. God Bless America, God Bless Kat, and God Bless You, Jack. Rest in Peace, My Brother.



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**Eddie Licon** - March 07, 2021 at 09:09 AM

TH

“ Troy Hopcroft purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jack Gale Joplin.



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**Troy Hopcroft** - March 06, 2021 at 12:50 PM

SG

“ Jack was one of the greatest and grateful I had the honor and privilege to serve with him both in Bad Tolz and later at Ft. Lewis. Our paths crossed again when he worked at SFUWO in Key West and I was working at SWC. I'll never forget my E-5 to E-6 promotion board. He was the president of the board and after getting grilled by the other Sergeants Major and First Sergeants he only had one question for me. He looked at me sternly and said, "SGT Gough, what color is a brown dog?" I almost had a melt down trying to think what he meant by that but maintained my composure and answered him, "Brown, Sergeant Major" to which he replied, "Good answer". Hoisted many a beer with him. He will be missed.

*Wishing you the best during this difficult time Kat. Always remember the Brotherhood is there for you.*

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**Steve Gough** - March 06, 2021 at 08:42 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Jack Gale Joplin.*



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March 05, 2021 at 06:33 PM

CM

“ *CSM & Mrs. Gerald. Mallare purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jack Gale Joplin.*



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**CSM & Mrs. Gerald. Mallare** - March 04, 2021 at 06:18 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jack Gale Joplin.*



March 02, 2021 at 04:19 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss Kat and family. Joe will be there in Heaven, along with many others, to include other Son Tay Raiders, to greet Jack. Thinking of you and the family during this very trying time. Diane Murray*



**Diane Murray (Family Friend)** - March 02, 2021 at 10:55 AM



“ *Thank you for being such an inspiration to so many people. You were truly one of the most humble, caring, and courageous people to walk the Earth. My deepest sympathies to Kat & the Joplin family. Billy H*



**Billy Hoopes** - March 01, 2021 at 04:39 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jack Gale Joplin.*



March 01, 2021 at 04:34 PM