



Julius Reinitzer

June 14, 1928 - September 20, 2023

Julius “Bear” Reinitzer was born June 14th, 1928 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He passed away in Litchfield, NH on September 20th, 2023. He was 95 years old.

Julius is survived by his loving family, 2 daughters, Elaine and Ilona, 4 grandchildren, Adrien, Jillian, Savannah and Sierra, 1 great grandchild, Boden, and sons-in-law Peter Blaser and Paul Miller.

Born and raised in Prague, Czechoslovakia, Julius was put into a labor camp by the Nazis and forced to work for them in Poland and Russia. When the Russians overran the Germans in 1945 he returned to Prague and worked with the underground in the Prague Liberation. In 1950 he was wounded in a shootout with the Czech Communist Police, arrested and sentenced to 14 years in prison for working with the United States Intelligence Service. After several unsuccessful escape attempts, he was further sentenced to life imprisonment. He finally escaped to West Germany in 1952 and joined the United States Army as a Lodge Act Soldier. Julius became one of the original members of the US Army Special Forces (Green Berets) where he served with distinction for 30 years and retired at the rank of Sergeant Major and earned his nickname of “Bear”. He served 2 tours of duty in Vietnam.

He enjoyed traveling and skiing in his younger years. In his later years, Julius

delighted in enjoying good food with his family and friends and hosted many birthday parties at one of his favorite places, the Merrimack VFW Post 8641.

His predeceased family include his wife, Helga, his brothers Jiri and Jan.

We would like to thank everyone who supported Julius during his life and supported him and his family during this difficult time.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 10:00 am at the NH Veteran's Cemetery, 110 Daniel Webster Hwy, Boscawen, NH 03303. All may please meet at the cemetery.

Visiting hours will be held later that afternoon at the VFW Post 8641, 282 Daniel Webster Hwy, Merrimack NH between the hours of 4 – 7 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be made to Special Forces Association Chapter 72, 7B Canterbury Court, Hudson, NH 03051 or to VFW Post 8641, 282 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, NH 03054 (Donations can be made online at VFW8641.org via Paypal). He was a life member of both organizations.

Previous Events

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

SEP **26.** 10:00 AM (ET)

NH State Veterans Cemetery
110 Daniel Webster Hwy
Boscowan, NH

Celebration of Life

SEP **26.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

VFW Post 88641 Merrimack
282 Daniel Webster Hwy
Merrimack, NH

Tribute Wall



“ The “Bear” was my company SGM when I was in 10th Group at Devens. He was a bigger than life figure, he will surely be missed by the SF community. Until Valhalla!

CPT-R Dug “The Flying Finn” Niemela - October 18, 2023 at 08:07 PM



“ Denise sent a virtual gift in memory of Julius Reinitzer



Denise - October 08, 2023 at 08:13 PM



“ Julius Reinitzer

October 06, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ Julius Reinitzer

September 27, 2023 at 04:05 AM

JG

There will never be another Green Beret like Julius. After escaping to West Germany from the communist oppression in his native Czechoslovakia, he became an agent for the US Intelligence Service who was parachuted back to that country to escort valued individuals to freedom in Germany. He risked his life repeatedly, was captured on one of his missions and sentenced to serve a virtual life sentence in the infamous uranium mine at Jachimov. He escaped and returned to Germany using one of his escorting routes. This service for the US made him a "de facto" Green Beret because he was performing what became their "De Opresso Liber" mission motto to free people from oppression when they became organized years later as a Special Forces unit. It was no surprise that he volunteered to become a "de jure" member of the first Green Beret unit. He then served in the Special forces for 30 years. His real-life experience made him a valuable expert in military escape and evasion training for all branches of the US military. No other Green Beret can match his experience of personally liberating so many from oppression from whom he received thankful hugs after escorting them across the infamous Iron Curtain.

*John Gargus,
USAF Colonel who also escaped from Czechoslovakia*

John Gargus - September 29, 2023 at 01:49 PM

SN

“ We remember Mr. Reinitzer and his family when they became neighbors of ours. Mr. Reinitzer always seemed a bit scary at first, but once we got to know him, we found that he was kind, and witty - and loved his wife and daughters beyond measure. Elaine and Ilona - many condolences on your loss. May your happy memories bring you comfort.

Susan (Perry) Nutting - September 25, 2023 at 08:41 PM

HS

“ My condolences to the whole family. The entire Special Forces family has lost a legend. I remember him from Bad Tölz when I was a child, and I asked my father why they called him "Bear." He said, "Because he is a bear." If my father said that about somebody, it was true. Enough said.

Harry Strek - September 25, 2023 at 02:47 AM

JS

“ Got to know him through a number of SF events, including sharing a table at the farewell dinner for 10th SFGA in the move from Devens to Carson. He lived life large!! DOL soldier and rest in peace.

Jim Steiner - September 24, 2023 at 01:03 PM

 Peter McDonald

“ Sincere condolences to all. Bear set the bar for all things UW. 19 when I met him in Bad Tolz.

Peter McDonald - September 24, 2023 at 12:44 PM

BB

“ Bear and Andy Anderson, SGMs , holding formation in front of the 10th Special Forces Battalion in Bad Tolz... memorable soldiers.

Bill Beall - September 23, 2023 at 10:17 PM

JS

“ From the day I met Julius, he was an Opa to me. He always had a story to share, and loved to do it over a good meal. If there's one thing I know opa loved, it was a cold beer, and I'll miss having them with him. I'll miss our breakfast trips together, but I'll make sure I have some extra sausage, just for Opa. Love always, Jason

Jason Stasi - September 23, 2023 at 05:41 PM

SC

Having know him for 46 years, I'm not quite sure how life will be without him. He was at every gathering and party. He shared his stories, which to this day still seem unreal only because he was so humble. I do know one thing, there will be a toast to him every time we're together.
You fought an amazing fight, now you can rest easy. Love and miss you, Sandie & Gary too

Sandie Chapman - September 23, 2023 at 05:55 PM

DA

To all Julias's family and friends, I did not know this man, but what an incredible life! I would have liked tho have thanked him for his Service. My deepest sympathy to you all. Dawn A

Dawn - September 26, 2023 at 07:04 AM

DA

Julius, so very sorry

Dawn - September 26, 2023 at 07:05 AM

SR

“ Opa was kind to all and loved life. He always wanted people around. A funny memory of my Opa was in his last few months he was getting a physical therapist and other services coming to help him. He would offer anyone who came in a beer, because that's a common courtesy where he grew up. I will always remember his kindness and when my sister and I were little he would give us a dollar a hug. He loved his family, especially the ones that were around most.

Sierra Reinitzer - September 23, 2023 at 05:14 PM

DG

Served with the Sergeant Major at Bad Tolz from 1980 until his retirement. My introduction to 1st Battalion was to participate in a splendid orienteering course the Sergeant Major had set up. He earned my respect right off the bat. I never served with a finer senior NCO.

Danny L Greene - September 25, 2023 at 04:07 PM

JC

I served with Sergeant Major Reinitzer in 1st Bn 10th SFG(A) Bad Toelz beginning in January 1981. I often sat at his desk to hear him speak proudly of the history of the 10th Group and the many exercises he participated in or coordinated. One of the largest in Bavaria was the E&E exercise he helped set up. Another was a team challenge in which ODAs would ruck with full equipment from Toelz to the Zugspitz in 3 days. The XO, Dick Schmus, and I decided to give this a try - we made it but in slightly more than three days.

It was an extreme privilege to have served with the Sergeant Major and to have stayed in touch with him. My wife, Sue and I enjoyed our time visiting with him, and before her passing his wife Inga, at their home in New Hampshire or at Parker's Maple Barn for breakfast. Recently it had been sandwiches, beer (usually Pilsner Urquell) and Beckerovka.

I was very fortunate to have visited with Julius at his daughter Ilona's home the Friday before his passing. I saw a picture of him at the recent Oktoberfest in Walpole (MA) enjoying himself with beer and large pretzels. My departing words to him were: see you next year for Oktoberfest. Sadly, that is not to be. Rest in peace Soldier. De Oppresso Liber!

John Caprio

John Caprio - September 25, 2023 at 08:55 PM

BR

What an amazing man !! From one military man to another !

Bob Ricard - September 26, 2023 at 06:57 AM