



## James Kevin Tarpein

May 2, 1952 - May 22, 2016

James Kevin Tarpein, age 64, of Bowling Green, passed away Sunday, May 22, 2016 at the Boone Medical Center in Columbia. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am, Friday, May 27, 2016 at the Ariel Christian Church in Monroe City. Burial will be in the Ariel Christian Church Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Thursday at the Bibb-Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green.

James was born May 2, 1952, the oldest of four children to James Franklin Tarpein and Lela Mae Walker Tarpein. He is survived by his wife Mary Ruth McClintock Tarpein as well as his children Michael James Tarpein of Jackson, TN, Mary Ann Scherder and husband Matt of New Hartford, MO and Julia Elizabeth Tarpein and significant other Tom Whitehead of Long Beach, CA. Due in August 2016 is his first grandchild Addison Scherder ; Uncle Fred Leroy Tarpein and wife Maxine, three siblings Terry Wayne Tarpein, Deanna Moylan and husband Bob, Ricky Allen Tarpein and wife Corina, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Also surviving are his special K9 friends Charlie Brown, Ryder James, and Winston as well as one feline Ralphie. He was preceded in death by an infant brother Paul, his mother Lela and father James, as well as uncles and aunts on the Tarpein and Walker side of the family.

He attended grade school at Garden Grove District #20 in Adair County then attended Brashear Adair County RII school grades 7 through 12. After graduation in May of 1970, he entered the US Army at Fort Campbell,

Kentucky for Basic Training and then went to Fort Polk, Louisiana for Advanced Infantry Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He deployed to Vietnam serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Central Highlands of Vietnam as an Infantry Man RADIO Operator, M203 Grenade Operator, and M60 Machine Gun Operator. He was deployed to Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 173rd Airborne and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. In 1973, he was discharged from the Army as Sgt. E5, and enrolled at Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville, Missouri. While at NMSU he worked for Campus Police and in 1975 joined Army ROTC and completed the Army ROTC Flight Training in 1976, and graduating December 1976 with a Criminal Justice Major. He was commissioned US ARMY as Regular Army Officer 2nd Lt and reported to the Military Police Officer course at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Upon graduation from the MP Officer School, he was assigned to the 25th Military Police Company 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

On July 13, 1979 he was married to Mary Ruth McClintock at Ariel Christian Church in Ralls County, MO and they returned to Hawaii where Lt. Tarpein was assigned as Exec Officer HQ Company 25 Aviation Battalion at Wheeler Army Airfield. Cpt. Tarpein and Wife Mary returned to Anniston, Alabama in 1981 where he attended the MP Officer Advance Course. Upon graduation, he was assigned to training school and would go on to extensively implement standards for all company grade MP Officers. In 1983 a son, Michael J. Tarpein, was born at the Army hospital in Fort McClellan, Alabama. In 1984, Captain Tarpein and family were assigned to law enforcement command at Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he served as BN S4, Commander of Stockade, BN S1 and drug control division. Two daughters were born at the Army hospital at Fort Campbell, TN. Mary Ann in 1986 and Julia Elizabeth in 1988. In September 1988, Captain Tarpein separated from the US Army and joined the Army Reserve as Major O4. In 1993, he resigned his commission and joined the Missouri Army National Guard. While in the Missouri Army National Guard, he was deployed to Panama 3 times, Honduras 1 time,

Nicaragua 1 time, Germany 1 time, Italy 1 time, and Kosovo 1 time. He faithfully served until being discharged in 2008 with a total of 38 years of military service. He was a member of VFW post 4610 holding the office of commander and district 17 Jr Vice commander. He was also a member of the American Legion post 349.

As a civilian, he worked as a police officer in Clarksville, TN, Deputy Sherriff in Ralls County Missouri, Police Officer in Monroe City, Missouri, Police officer in LaGrange, Missouri, and Chief of Police in LaGrange Missouri. He also worked for Pike Grain Company of Louisiana, Missouri, custodian for the Louisiana Missouri School District, Truck Driver for Gully Transportation, Truck Driver for Schneider Logistics, as well as his favorite job - instructor of in school suspension for the Winfield Missouri School District.

Serving as pallbearers will be Wallace Ahrens, Danny Johnson, Whitney Sallin, Clarence Estes, Jim Darnell, Matt Scherder and Matt Murry.

Memorial may be made to the family in care of the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Ariel Christian Church Cemetery

Monroe City, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **26**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC - Bowling Green  
606 West Main Street  
Bowling Green, MO 63334  
(573) 324-2211  
office@bibbveach.com  
<https://www.bibbveach.com/>

## Funeral Service

MAY **27**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ariel Christian Church  
45787 Ariel Ln  
Monroe City, MO 63456

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC created a Tribute Video in memory of James Kevin Tarpein*



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**Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's, LLC.** - May 26, 2016 at 07:06 PM



“ *memories of our deployment and a photo sent the Brigade Commander. Brothers till the end of time. Vietnam*

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**Neverson Dollar** - August 27, 2017 at 03:34 PM



*still miss him*

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**Neverson Dollar** - August 27, 2017 at 03:35 PM



“ *Mary, We just learned of Kevin's passing this week. We are sad that we didn't know so we could show our respect to him by attending his funeral. We both worked with Kevin at the Ralls Co. Sheriff's Dept. and we were honored to work beside him. He was a good man and a friend. We ran into him every now and then here at New London. Our prayers go out to you and the kids. We are sure you miss him and that crooked smile and his sense of humor. Sincerely, Gary & Brenda Grubb*

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**Brenda Grubb** - December 08, 2016 at 08:12 AM

KR

“ *Mary, My heart goes out to you and your family. I know Kevin will be missed by you all. Sorry I couldn't make the services but I am lifting you up in prayer. Kay Harlow Rubemeyer*

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**Kay Rubemeyer** - May 27, 2016 at 09:11 AM

KM

“ *Mary and family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Every time I ran into Kevin, he always said; My dad liked you. He will be greatly missed!*

*Kathy Moran*

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**Kathy Moran** - May 26, 2016 at 09:55 PM

LW

“ *Laurie and Michael Wood purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.*



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**Laurie and Michael Wood** - May 26, 2016 at 04:03 PM

MR

“ I served with James many years ago when he first came to the Missouri Guard. I have never met a more hard working and respectful soldier. No task was too big or too small. Thank you for the many kind words and support over the years my friend.

To James's family,  
Thank you for your many years of sacrifice while your soldier was away and please accept my condolences for the loss of James.

Mark Richerson  
Master Sergeant, Retired  
175th MP Bn.

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**Mark Richerson** - May 26, 2016 at 03:39 PM

LW

“ Dear Mary and Family,

I'm so sorry for your loss. Kevin was a good man with a big heart who loved his family, friends and country. I have a sweet memory of him outside Grandma McClintock's house throwing a ball with his (then) little son Michael. When I saw him last at Ariel Christian Church, Kevin was moving more slowly, but his spirit was strong. How he must have been looking forward to holding his granddaughter Addison! I know that you will tell Addison his best stories, and show her his picture and his folded flag, so that she can be as proud of him as you are. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

With deepest sympathy,

Laurie Wheatland Wood

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**Laurie Wood** - May 26, 2016 at 03:12 PM

LC

“ My deepest condolences to the family. I was lucky enough to be SGT Tarpein’s Company Commander during our little trip to Kosovo. I always called him the “Magical Mechanical Man” because he walked like a robot with bad hydraulics! Biggest heart of ANY Soldier I’ve ever served with – sincerity, honesty, and true caregiving were dished out by him on a daily basis. I can’t tell you how many times he and I sat alone in the HQ, late at night, BS’ing about family, airplanes, fishing, Army stories, childhood stories, and our favorite topic..... stupid people! The Army says we all can be replaced.....just not true with Ole Tarpein. He will be greatly missed!  
LTC Larry Crowder

Larry D. Crowder - May 26, 2016 at 12:50 PM

SB

“ Sherrill B. purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.



Sherrill B. - May 26, 2016 at 10:34 AM

CS

“ Curtis, Christina, Abigail and Mason Scherder purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.



Curtis, Christina, Abigail and Mason Scherder - May 25, 2016 at 06:22 PM

TC

“ *Mary and Family, I'm sorry to hear about Kevin. Mark an I were so glad we can to Bowling Green last fall to see. He was a great American and a better story teller. He will be missed by all. Tim Dillavou*

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**Tim Dillavou Elizabeth Colorado** - May 25, 2016 at 03:21 PM

RJ

“ *Kevin and I were not only DOM brothers, but had several law enforcement classes together at NMSU and attended the MP Officer's Advanced Course together. He was one of the "good guys". Vickie and I wish Mary and the rest of the family our prayers and condolences. Take Care, Kevin!!*

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**Richard G. Jenkins** - May 25, 2016 at 02:47 PM



“ *53 files added to the album LifeTributes*



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**Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's, LLC.** - May 25, 2016 at 02:23 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.*



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May 24, 2016 at 09:07 PM



“ *Kevin was a student of mine at Brashear High School. I was the Business Education teacher and Kevin was a typing student. He stopped by a couple weeks ago to wish us happy retirement. Sorry I missed him. God bless you dear one and Rest In Peace. Talley Saucier*

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**talley saucier** - May 24, 2016 at 08:50 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Kevin's passing. I spent many years with him in the National Guard. I cherish the knowledge he imparted.*

*Liza Loughridge*

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**Liza Loughridge** - May 24, 2016 at 04:45 PM



“ *Joan Thomas purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.*



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**Joan Thomas** - May 24, 2016 at 08:51 AM

HT

“ Dear Mary, I am sorry for the loss of your husband. Prayers for you and your family.  
Helen Tiller



<http://storage.lifetributes.com/Candles/new/candle-10.png>

helen tiller - May 24, 2016 at 08:48 AM

HM

“ Hilda and Big Mike purchased the A Full Life for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.



Hilda and Big Mike - May 24, 2016 at 07:38 AM

Brenda Capps

“ A great friend and classmate and a great man...Kevin was an inspiration to many and accomplished so much in his life...He will be missed...Rest In Peace Friend



Brenda Capps - May 24, 2016 at 07:20 AM

TF

“ The Shelby Dent Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.



The Shelby Dent Family - May 23, 2016 at 10:17 PM

MB

“ Michele Maxwell Bates lit a candle in memory of James Kevin Tarpein



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**Michele Maxwell Bates** - May 23, 2016 at 09:26 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.



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May 23, 2016 at 08:31 PM

SF

“ SGT (ret).Jeffrey Smith and family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of James Kevin Tarpein.



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**SGT (ret).Jeffrey Smith and family** - May 23, 2016 at 08:13 PM

MG

“ I can't even explain the relationship that I had. I can remember him challenging me as a female and never letting anyone treat me differently. He came off as so tough but I knew he had a heart of gold. Through the years we challenged each other. I will never forget the moment he took an axe to something to prove a point. Poor CPT Crowder had to deal with that! But even as he refused promotions and then later when retired and refused a ceremony we all stood together and had his family there as he was recognized for his service. He was like a second father for many of us coming in. He has a beautiful family and he always was so proud of them. My prayers are with you all in this time of healing. He was a great man who touched so very many lives.



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**melissa gothard** - May 23, 2016 at 08:01 PM

CW

“ I came to Kevin at the donut shop in Louisiana, Mo. Through the years I got to know Kevin very well. We became friends and buddies. I would love to listen to his stories and his "tall tales". But I loved every moment, I also became friends with Mary and my heart goes out to you Mary. He would give me support when I needed it. He told me I could always call if I needed someone to talk to. Kevin had a heart of gold and a soul to go with it. Kevin I hope your riding your horse in heaven. You are at peace now and no longer hurting. I love you my friend and I will try not to cry. As you ask me not to cry over you but to be happy. Fly high my dear friend fly high. Pete and Cheryle Wharton



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**Cheryle Wharton** - May 23, 2016 at 07:27 PM

CT

“ *Corina Tarpein lit a candle in memory of James Kevin Tarpein*



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**Corina Tarpein** - May 23, 2016 at 07:27 PM

DM

“ *Dee Moylan lit a candle in memory of James Kevin Tarpein*



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**Dee Moylan** - May 23, 2016 at 07:18 PM

SE

“ *One of the most knowledgeable men I have ever met in my life. Great man and father. Prayers with the family*

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**Sylvia Elliott** - May 23, 2016 at 06:07 PM