



# Mark Richard Esola

OCT 3, 1956 - AUG 26, 2024



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# Mark Richard Esola

OCT 3, 1956 - AUG 26, 2024

**M**ark Richard Esola, 67, of Amissville, VA died August 26, 2024, in Inova Fairfax Hospital, Fairfax VA. He was born October 3, 1956, in Akron, OH to Anthony and Barbara Esola (nee Carter).

Mark graduated from Akron Ellet High School class of 1975 and continued on to Ohio State University. He worked for Liebert Corp in Columbus, OH prior to joining the U.S. Army in 1984.

He joined the United States Army in March of 1984 as an Infantry Paratrooper. He was assigned to the scout platoon, 4th Battalion 502nd Infantry – Berlin Brigade, Germany from 1985-1988. He then was assigned to the 1st Battalion 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC, with which Mark deployed to the Middle East as part of Desert Shield / Desert Storm.

In 1992 Mark attended the Special Forces Qualification Course, graduating as a Special Forces weapons Sergeant. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion 10th Special Forces Group in Stuttgart, Germany where he served in multiple positions within the Commander's In-extremis Force (CIF) specializing in counter-terrorism operations. In 1996, Mark participated in Operation Assured Response, a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) in the war-torn country of Liberia. He continued on to Fort Bragg in 1997, where he served as both a counter-terrorism instructor and unconventional/guerilla warfare instructor.

In 1999, Mark was assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion where he continued to deploy globally. Just three months after the events of September 11, 2001, he was deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. In March 2003, he was one of the first to deploy to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mark retired in March 2004 after 20 years of active service spanning both the Cold War and the Global War on Terror. His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd



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Award), Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4th Award), Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and the French Forces Commando Badge.

After retiring from the military, Mark continued to serve the military as a government contractor. When not deployed overseas, he operated a firearms training and self-defense business. In 2006, he pursued a new venture based on his lifelong love of motorcycles, called 'Mark's Motorcycle Leather Works' based in Sperryville, VA. Mark took such pride in his leather work, that he only accepted custom orders and guaranteed satisfaction. One of his last creations was a life-size 'Full Armor of God' a work that took over three months to complete and included more than one thousand hand-stamped crosses on the individual pieces of armor. Mark was a follower of Christ, with the heart of a warrior.

Mark is survived by his wife, Debbie; his mother-in-law, Jeannette, and her husband, Mike; his sisters-in-law, his daughter, Angie, and her husband, Mickey, and grandchildren, children Ayden, Jaxon, and Izabella.

He is also survived by his brother Tony and his wife, Tammi; their children, Chace, AJ, and Shannon; and his cousin, Lucy.

A memorial service for Mark will be held on November 9th, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at Lakemore United Methodist Church, 1536 Flickinger Road, Akron, OH with a Celebration of Life to follow.

A funeral service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2025 at Fort Myer Old Post Chapel 204 Arlington Ave, Fort Myer, VA 22211.

The family invites you to join them after the service for a reception at Texas Jack's, 2761 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201.

An online guestbook and tribute wall are available at [www.foundandson.com](http://www.foundandson.com)

Found and Sons Funeral Chapel of Culpeper is serving the family.



# Events

**Mark Richard Esola**

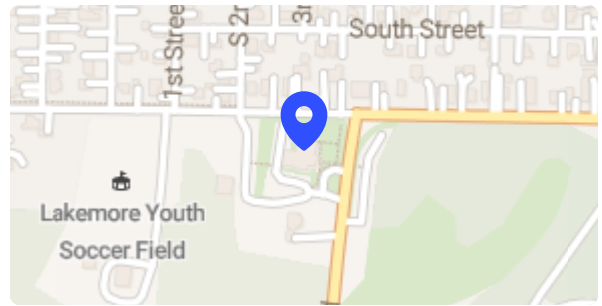
OCT 3, 1956 - AUG 26, 2024

## Memorial Service

**Saturday**, November 9, 2024

4:00 PM ET

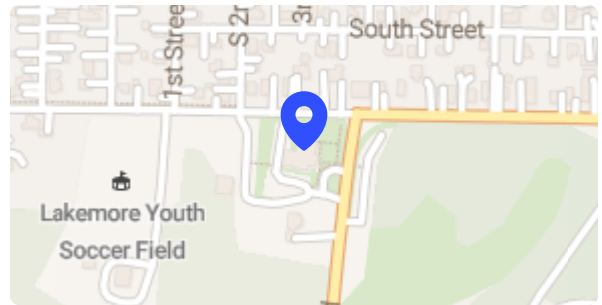
**Lakemore United Methodist Church**  
1536 Flickinger Road , Akron OH 44312



## Celebration

**Saturday**, November 9, 2024

**Lakemore United Methodist Church**  
1536 Flickinger Road , Akron OH 44312

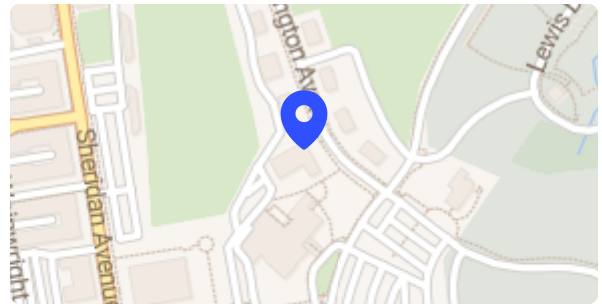


## Funeral Service

**Monday**, May 5, 2025

3:00 PM ET

**Old Fort Myer Post Chapel**  
204 Arlington Avenue, Fort Myer VA 22211

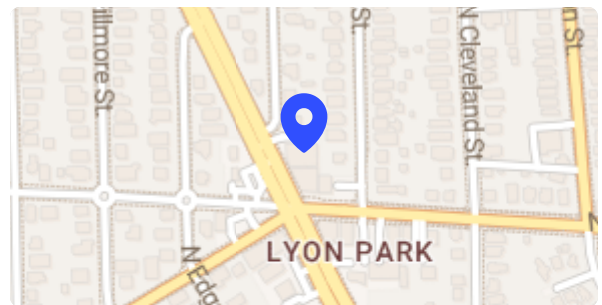


## Reception

**Monday**, May 5, 2025

4:00 PM ET

**Texas Jack's**  
2761 Washington Blvd, Arlington VA 22201





# Tribute Wall

**Mark Richard Esola**

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**Patrick Lebrun** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I just found out today. Great loss. Mark and I had spent a lot of time together. Angie and Family so very sorry for your Loss. CORKEY

May 13 at 12:36 PM



**Coral Wheeler Horton** posted:

Mark was such a wonderful man.

January 7 at 6:05 AM



**Jim Byrom** posted:

A solemn honor to have known this Brother in Christ and American warrior. A man of genuine humility and deep, abiding Faith. The Very Best of Our Nation. Rest in Peace.Follower

September 17 at 6:53 PM



**Laurinda Shifflett** posted:

Not a memory, I didn't know this gentleman but so proud of his service to our country ❤️ I am sure him and his family made many sacrifices for me and my family. Thank you very much!!

September 17 at 1:45 PM



**Angela Ellis** September 20 at 6:48 AM

Thank you Laurinda for your kind words. Means more than you know.



**Sandra Ostermann** lit a candle in honor of Mark.



September 14 at 7:48 AM



**Angela Ellis** September 16 at 2:03 PM





## Tribute Wall

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SO

**Sandra Ostermann** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I think back to when I met you which was through Daniel. From the very get-go, I saw what Daniel seen and loved about you. Your great sense of humor, love for all. Just simply amazing. I think Daniel and I both are still processing you aren't here anymore but thankful you were a part of our lives. RIP Mark. You blessed many lives. 🙏



September 13 at 7:55 PM

CW

**Chris W** posted:

Had a glass of Crown for a man who I am proud to call a Brother. Till we meet again my friend.

September 13 at 4:25 PM

JE

**Jean Eustice** lit a candle in honor of Mark.

September 13 at 12:13 PM



AE

**Angela Ellis** lit a candle in honor of Mark.

September 12 at 8:09 PM



DE

**Debra Esola** lit a candle in honor of Mark.

September 12 at 8:09 PM



AE

**Angela Ellis** posted:

Please, do not send flowers at this time. More to follow at a later date. Thank you.

September 12 at 3:25 PM



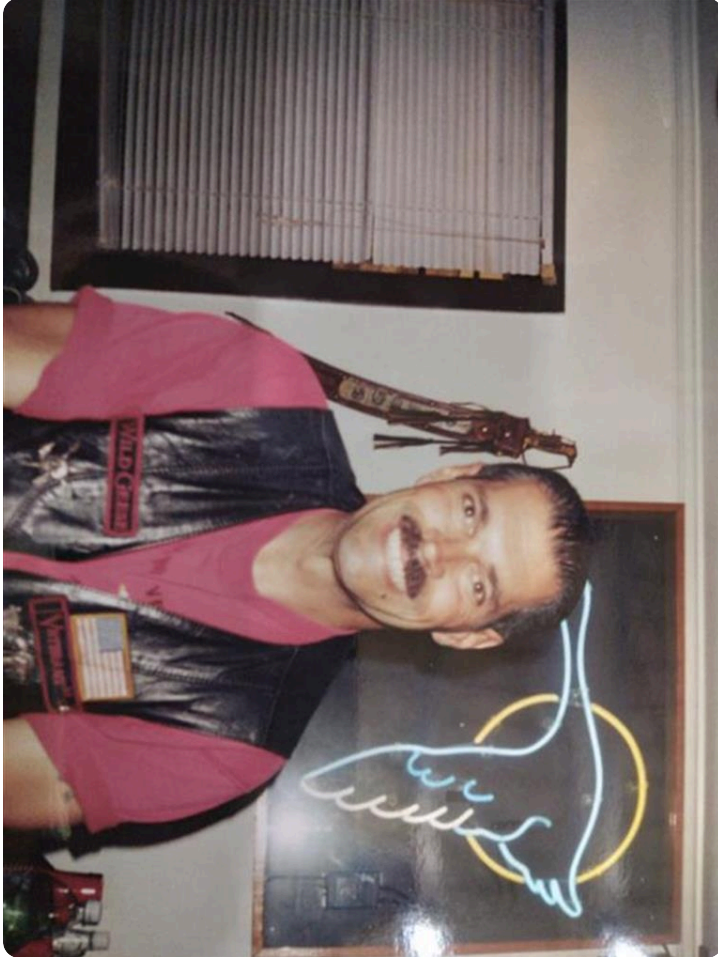
# Media

**Mark Richard Esola**  
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Patrick Lebrun shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 13 at 12:36 PM





## Media

**Mark Richard Esola**  
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**Sandra Ostermann** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

September 13 at 7:55 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mark by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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