



Lieutenant-Colonel (ret.) Richard "Rick" Charles Roche, a Vietnam and Operation Desert Shield Veteran, died peacefully in his San Antonio, Texas, home on March 2, 2021, after a two-and-a-half-year battle with cancer at the age of 74.

Lt. Col. Roche was born on November 21, 1946 in Pensacola, Florida. In 1964, then Airman Roche joined the United States Air Force as a weapons loadmaster, logging in more than 300 hours in combat missions during the Vietnam War. In the 1970s, Col. Roche served as a meteorological/navigational technician until he earned his degree from Louisiana Tech and was commissioned as a communications officer in 1980. Throughout his 43 years, six months, and 18 days of military service, Lt. Col. Roche served the United States on military bases in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alaska, Washington D.C., South Korea, and Berlin, Germany, and had many other PCS and TDY assignments. He retired from the Air Force in January 2008, and called San Antonio, Texas, "The Gateway to the Air Force", home. Although he amassed numerous medals and accolades, the accomplishment he was most proud of was his seven children, saying, "I hope I have set a good example for them through hard work and self-motivation and that I had a positive influence on them and in their successes".

Once retired, Lt. Col. Roche spent the last 13 years doing what he truly loved: salmon fishing in Alaska during the summer, attending the Odom family reunion each September, deer hunting in Alabama and Missouri in the fall/winter months, and fishing and turkey hunting in the spring with many family members and close friends.

He is survived by his sons Richard, Anthony (Raye), Eric (Alicia), Christopher (Susie), and his daughters, Carrie (Bruce), Sally (Randy), and Leslie (Jesse); 13 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, Tom, Ben, Jack, Patrick, Michael, and sisters

Kathy Loesch, Cheryl Verel, Carole Penning, and Teresa Roche, and wife, Pong "Misha" Roche. He is preceded in death by his parents, Richard Edward and Sally Mae Roche, and grandparents, Eric and Lottie Mae Odom.

A viewing will take place at Funeral Caring, 6539 Bandera Road, San Antonio, Texas, 78251, from 1pm to 5 pm on April 5, 2021. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Prince of Peace Catholic Church at 10am on Tuesday April 6, 2021, followed by a private burial at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.