

Sgt. Maj. (Retired) Thomas W. VanDevender

Funeral for retired Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Thomas W. VanDevender, 66, Lawton, will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 31, 2014, at Becker-Rabon Funeral Home Chapel with Chaplain Maj. Thomas Bruce officiating.

Sgt. Maj. VanDevender died Saturday, July 26, 2014, at his home.

Burial with full military honors will be at Post Cemetery, Fort Sill.

He was born Nov. 8, 1947, in Anderson, Ind., to Wallace and Lucille Rawlins VanDevender. He married Mary L. Brewer on Nov. 8, 1981, at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Sgt. Maj. VanDevender worked his way through school by working at Marsh Grocery Store in Anderson before joining the military. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2005 after more than 38 years of service. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal and many others. Following his retirement, he worked for Range Operations at Fort Sill in several capacities. He served on the Fort Sill Retiree Council and was a member of the Sergeants' Major Association.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; three children and their spouses: Thomas W. VanDevender II and his wife Lisa, Richmond, Ind.; Kenneth VanDevender and his wife Angela, Eaton, Ind.; and Jayanna Haynes and her husband Dustin, Fairmount, Ind.; his mother, Lucille VanDevender, Lawton; brother, Larry Vandevender and his wife Mary, Yorktown, Ind.; sister, Laura and her husband Joe, Bonita Springs, Fla.; uncle, Claude VanDevender and his wife Joyce, Clayton, Mich.; two stepchildren: Gerold Lee Yates and his wife Michelle, Franklin, Ind.; and Phillip Shane Patterson, New Jersey, seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and four step grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father; and a brother, David VanDevender.