

CHARLES EDWIN KOENINGER (Col. USAF Ret.) 80, Jacksonville, died peacefully at home Thursday, June 15, after a long battle with cancer. He was born June 17, 1926, at Chillicothe, Texas, the son of Frank and Ollie Mae Koeninger.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; a daughter, Kay, and her husband, Scott Warren, of Yellow Springs, Ohio; a son, Allan Koeninger, and his wife, Mindy, of Herndon, Va.; a daughter, Ann Chavez, of Anchorage, Alaska; a daughter, Jean Koeninger, and her husband, Dale Custer, of Little Rock; and four grandchildren, Whitney and Dayna Koeninger, David Warren and Max May.

Colonel Koeninger served as a Motor Machinist Mate 2nd class aboard a PC in the Caribbean and South Atlantic during World War II. After discharge from the Navy, he attended the University of Texas and earned his B.S. degree. He entered pilot training as a 2nd Lieutenant, earning his wings with Class 52-D at Reese Air Force Base, Texas. Soon after, he served a 14-month tour in Korea, flying C-119 s. While instructing ROTC classes at the University of Arizona, he also studied for and earned his Master's Degree. Next, he taught for four years at the U.S. Air Force Academy, followed by a shortened tour in France flying C-130 s. He served a tour in Vietnam flying the first C-130 gunship and then was assigned as Advisor to the Oklahoma Air Guard. A four-year tour in Alaska gave him the responsibility of serving as Director of Operations, 21st Composite Wing and then the Alaskan Air Command. He retired September 1978 after two years as Base Commander at Little Rock Air Force Base.

Charlie was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and was a licensed lay reader in that church. He was head of the usher committee for several years and served two terms on the Vestry. A long-time volunteer at St. Francis House, he was also on the Board of the Family Services Agency and was President of that Board one year. A founding member of the Arkansas Traveler Chapter, Order of Daedalians at LRAFB, he also served as the first Flight Captain.

A memorial service for Colonel Koeninger will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 20 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4106 JFK Blvd., followed by interment of ashes in the church's columbarium. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to St. Francis House, P.O. Box 4490, Little Rock, Ark., 72214 or the St. Luke's Endowment Fund. Arrangements by Roller-Owens Funeral Home, 5509 JFK, North Little Rock, (501-791-7400). Online guest book www.rollerfuneralhomes.com/owens.