



Edward C. Kielkopf, Jr. '57

No. 21380 ■ 4 Dec 1933 – 18 Oct 2007 ■ Died in Boiling Springs, PA
Interred in West Point Cemetery, West Point, NY



Edward Christian Kielkopf, Jr. passed away on 18 Oct 2007 at his home in Boiling Springs, PA. He faced pancreatic cancer courageously and persevered until the end. Three weeks before his death, he drove six hours to visit family—he wanted to do that. At the end of that visit, he entered a hospital, then hospice. Family was very important to Ed, and all through his life and career he made decisions based on his family.

Ed was born on St. Barbara's Day 1933 in St. Paul, MN, to COL Edward Christian and Mary Looby Kielkopf. With three older sisters, life was hard. Of course, it depends on one's perspective as to whether it was harder for the poor little boy with three big sisters mothering him or for the sisters who tell stories of the little brother jumping out of the bushes as they returned from a date.

Ed's father served during World War I and was recalled to service for World War II for 'just one year' in Washington, DC, to serve with the Lend Lease program. The Kielkopf family moved to Washington in June of 1941 and never returned to St. Paul as COL Kielkopf remained on active duty there until retirement in 1949.

Ed attended elementary schools in St. Paul, MN, and Bethesda, MD, and Gonzaga College High School in Washington, DC, followed by two years at Catholic University. He entered West Point in 1953.

From the time he was a boy, Ed had wanted to be a soldier. He accompanied his father to Citizens Military Training Camp at Ft. Snelling during the summers they lived in MN. He never wavered from his dream and pursued it with determination. Being an alternate for West Point did not deter him.

Following graduation, Ed completed the Officer Basic Course, Ranger School

and Jump School and was assigned as platoon leader and executive officer, 1st Missile Battalion, 562nd Artillery, Tolchester Beach, MD. From there he went to the U.S. Army War College, where he was aide to the commandant.

During a January snowstorm, Ed and Lois A. Hazlett married in 1962 at the War College Chapel. They had two daughters, Ann and Dorothy. Through the years, they enjoyed their travels together. There were some bittersweet moments, but they always ultimately saw the bright side. Ann would attend ten schools in 12 years and Dorothy would attend nine schools in 12 years, but both went on to excel in college and in their careers. No father was ever prouder of his girls.

Following a tour in Korea, where he commanded a battery and was aide to the commanding general, 7th Infantry Division, he attended the University of Arizona to complete a master's degree in nuclear engineering. In Vietnam, Ed commanded the 1st Battalion, 83rd Field Artillery, as a major. He then was assigned to the 1st Armored Division in Zirndorf, Germany, before commanding the 2nd Battalion, 78th Field Artillery, in Bamberg.

Ed quickly adapted to any environment, whole-heartedly embracing the open prairie of Nebraska while serving two tours on the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff at Offutt Air Force Base. Between those tours, he commanded the 2nd Armored Division Artillery at Ft. Hood, TX. He had commanded now at every level, and he always loved serving with soldiers.

Ed retired in 1987 from the War College faculty and again from the former BMY Combat Systems in York, PA in 1993. He became involved in his community, and here again he found a deep strength. Helping people became an important part of his life.

He was first invited to become a part of The Exchange Club of Carlisle, part of a national service organization. Its main project is the prevention of child abuse but also is involved in projects such as Americanism and youth programs. Ed became very active in the local club, eventually on the district level,

and was well known on the national level. At his passing, the past national president, Steve Douglas, wrote, "Ed was a kind, compassionate, meticulous gentleman of the highest character. It is an honor to have known Ed and to have called him my friend. Ed gave unselfishly of himself to his community and to his Exchange Club organization, and he will be sorely missed."

Ed served for many years as a member and former chair of The Samaritan Fellowship, an ecumenical group which meets at a local church to meet the needs of people who are facing loss of utilities, eviction notices, and similar situations. Ed also served on such groups as the advisory board of the Salvation Army, The Meals on Wheels board, and the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority.

During these years, he also found time to join Lois as a volunteer at the Military History Institute, where his deep knowledge and love of history were utilized.

Ed was active in the Catholic community at the USAWC Chapel, serving over the years as usher, lector and EME and participating in Bible sharing groups and study.

These years of retirement also brought the opportunity to spend time with family. As proud as he was of his daughters, he was just as proud of his son-in-law and grandsons. Ed and Lois made the six-hour drive to the Buffalo area at every opportunity to watch their son-in-law coach volleyball and his grandsons participate in their many activities.

The last year of Ed's life was one of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Ed did not give up. He was a man of deep faith and strength all his life. He never avoided a difficult situation but faced life straight on, always with integrity and never in fear of the consequences.

Ed will be remembered as a dedicated soldier, loving husband, father, grandfather, son and brother, as well as a man well respected and admired in his community.

—His loving family: wife Lois,
daughter Ann, son-in-law Andrew,
daughter Dorothy, grandsons Christian & Alex