



## Roderick L. Ford Obituary

September 2, 1953 - August 1, 2006

Roderick Lee Ford, 52, of Carroll Valley, PA died Monday, July 31, 2006 at the Gettysburg Hospital in Gettysburg, PA. His funeral service will be Saturday 2 PM at Crown Hill Cemetery with full military honors. Rev. Joe Carr will officiate. Born Sept. 2, 1953 in Oconee County, S.C., he was the son of the late Elijah and Zola Osbourn Ford. He was the devoted husband to his wife Janice Gossett Ford for 26 years. Mr. Ford grew up in Westminster, S.C. and Macon, Ga., graduating from Northeast High School in Macon. He attended Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and then worked for the retail industry for several years. Mr. Ford entered the United States Army in April of 1982 at Fort Gordon, Ga., and then served with the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga., where he was deployed to Iraq for Desert Storm. Mr. Ford was then assigned to the 5th Signal Command in Worms, Germany. He moved to this area with his assignment to Site "R" then was assigned to the 552nd Signal Company in Korea and returned to the states for his last assignment at HQ, INSCOM, Fort Belvoir, Va. After his retirement in 2003, Mr. Ford worked briefly for Halifax Corporation before joining the federal government at the 302nd Signal Battalion at Fort Detrick, Md. He received numerous awards and commendations during his military career, including Meritorious Services Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Overseas Service Ribbons, National Defense Service Medals and the Kuwait Liberation Medal and he posthumously received the Commander's Civilian Service Award. Mr. Ford was a member of the Baptist Church of Macon and attended various military

chapels. He was a member of the Fairfield Amvets. He was preceded in death by a brother, Richard N. Ford. Surviving in addition to his wife are one son, Roderick Lee Ford Jr. of Atlanta, Ga. and two daughters, Hannah Morgan Lee Ford and Amelia Laura Lee Ford, both at home, mother and father-in-law, Frank and Virginia Gossett, Putney.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Roderick L. Ford Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Roderick L. Ford Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Roderick L. Ford Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Roderick L. Ford Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM

WS

“ I served with Rod in Worms and attended the Advanced Non-commissioned Officers Course (ANOC) with Rod. He and I spent every evening of the summer of 1993 fishing after we were released from ANOC to spend the time. He told me endless stories of his wife and daughter while fishing. He only wanted to get home to his wife and children and counted everyday down to getting home. My greatest memory of Rod was that we both shared a hug before I left to head back to Ft. Huachuca, AZ and I could see that he was holding back a tear as well as I was.

*Rod, I just told the story of your birthday dinner in Augusta and how the waitress poured a bucket of ice on top of you!. Then did a google search to find this. You are with Christ now!*

Wes

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**Wesley D Sherwood Jr - Wills Point TX, TX - Fellow Soldier** - July 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ So sad to hear of his passing. I haven't seen him since high school and we lived on the same street in Macon, GA.

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**Anita Bailey Stanhope** - November 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ I will miss Mr.Ford. He was both a great leader and a mentor. He stood by his decisions and the people that worked for him. He had and still has my respect.

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**Byron B. Holt SSG U.S. ARMY** - August 25, 2006 at 12:00 AM

GZ

“ *I will miss my conversations with Mr. Ford. When I work the night shift here at Camp Roberts, I looked forward to speaking to Mr. Ford in the early morning hours about work, the weather, just small talk in between getting things done. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Gary S. Zipperer** - August 25, 2006 at 12:00 AM

“ Roderick was a great friend and co-worker, he will be greatly missed. Below are the remarks I made at Rod's Memorial Service in Fort Detrick Post Chapel on August 03, 2006:

*What can I say about Roderick Ford?*

*He was among the most professional people I've ever met. Roderick, Rod, to those who worked with him was clearly an NCO, a retired NCO, but still always an NCO in his heart. Being an NCO was extremely important to him. He lived the Army NCO creed even as a civilian ?No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". Yes that was Rod alright; he believed it and he lived it. He was so much an NCO in fact that at times I know he was frustrated with my calmer, gentler, and yes, usually slower? civilian way of doing things. Rod tried to come to terms with his role as a civilian. I can remember after serious talks in my office, he would lean back in his chair, smirk and chuckle in his unique way and say ?I'm trying, I really am?. In the end, I think I learned more from him than he from me. Even though it was Rod's way to push hard to get the right thing done, Rod knew patience was the key. Rod understood the laws of physics, with enough time and pressure, mountains could be moved. Ever so slowly Rod was able to move his mountains.*

*And yes, Rod was tough, to deny that would be to deny who he was. It was alright though because everyone around him knew that he was just as fair as he was tough. I probably saw Rod more than any other supervisor, he was just so dedicated to making sure that his people were taken care of. I guess that?s part of being an NCO too. Rod would frequently call me at night if he was bothered about the welfare of one of his Soldiers. Rod?s moral courage was almost unbelievable to me. When he knew something was right he didn?t mind taking on the whole world.*

**Craig Bouma** - August 23, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I have the distinct honor to have known Rod for several years. Soon after his joining the 302d family I noticed a dramatic improvement to the Team Spirit, ownership of the mission and overall morale for the entire section. As a team member of the S3, he is a force multiplier. With even the smallest possible staff, the mission never failed. As a friend, he is always there to offer input, advice, or simply lend an ear to bounce ideas off of. If you notice the use of present tense it is with purpose. Although Rod has gone before us to a happier time and place, the impact that he has made on the face of the earth will live on in the minds, voices and actions of those whom he touched... his work and effort carry on.

To his family I extend my heartfelt sorrow and continued prayers for Rod and you all. To those that knew him, the encouragement to continue the path he walked... to do what is right and offer your hand in friendship as you go.

With greatest respect, CJL

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**Christopher J. Lorei, MAJ, SC** - August 23, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ I worked with Mr. Ford for over a year and he impacted my life greatly. He expected a lot out of us, but it was for our own good. I am a better soldier because of him. His passing hit us all very hard and I am sorry for your loss.

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**John Lytle SPC US ARMY** - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ My heartfelt sympathy to the Ford family. I am honored to have had the privilege of knowing and working with Rod. He will be deeply missed.

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**Cory Kline** - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I pray that God continues to bless and keep you during your time of grief. Take care.

Marcus L. Campbell - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ I've never met Rod but as a member of the 302d and on behalf of my Supply Section our prayers go out to all the Family members God Bless you all.

David Racca - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Rod was my old friend and fellow soldier. We shared good and bad times while serving the Army. He could bring a smile to your face during the worst of times. I will miss his country charm.  
Mike, E Co, 302d Sig Bn

MICHAEL S. NORTH - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Mr. Ford was a true mentor to me both professionally and personally. He will be missed.

Mike Procuk - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

1S

“ Delta Company expresses their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Ford. May the Lord be with you in these trying times. We are praying for you.

1SG Richard Spears - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Rod Ford will be missed here by all the family here at the 302d Signal Battalion - our prayers go out with you - The S4

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**Jim Rose** - August 22, 2006 at 12:00 AM

FR

“ I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Friend** - August 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM