



Thomas Kalus

MAR 13, 1926 - OCT 3, 2023



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Thomas Kalus Obituary

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Kalus (Ret. USMC, Marine Mustang Officer)

Lieutenant Colonel Kalus was born in Silverhill, Alabama on 13 March 1926, and raised in Burlington, Colorado, and Cleveland, Ohio. He passed on October 3, 2023, at home in Aiea, Hawaii. He was 97 at the time of his passing.

He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on January 12, 1944. During World War II he served as a Private with the 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California, Camp Tarawa, Hawaii, Iwo Jima Landing, and on occupation duty in Japan and Nagasaki. Following World War II he served at several duty stations on the East and West Coasts. Staff Sergeant Kalus was serving with the 5th Marine Regiment, which arrived in Korea in July of 1950. While in Korea, he saw action on the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon Landing, Wonsan Landing, Chosin Reservoir, and Operation "Killer". Following his return to the United States, he was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California where he was promoted to Master Sergeant. He reported to Quantico, Virginia, and was commissioned on 3 February 1952. During his tour at Quantico, Second Lieutenant Kalus attended Officers Basic School and Communication Officers' School. He was then assigned duty at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California, followed by Inspector-Instructor duty in Chicago, Long Beach, and Los Angeles.

During July of 1962, Captain Kalus reported to the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa and served as the Radio Relay Officer, Operations Officer, and Executive Officer of Communications Company, 3rd Marine Division returning to the United States in August of 1963 where he served as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Radio Relay and Construction Company, 7th Communications Battalion until May of 1965. Major Kalus assumed command of Marine Barracks, U.S. Naval Air Station, Barber's Point on 19 June 1965.



Lieutenant Colonel Kalus, Commanding officer of 9 Communication Battalion retired from Commanding General, Force Troops Pacific, in 29 Palms, California, on November 1, 1970.

Throughout his remarkable 27-year Marine Corps career, Lieutenant Colonel Kalus earned numerous Medals and Ribbons for his dedication, courage, and unwavering commitment.

Legion of Merit with Valor

Navy and Marine Commendation Medal with Valor

Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with 2 Bronze Stars

Asiatic-Pacific Medal with Bronze Stars

Korean Service Medal with 4 Bronze Stars

Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Stars

World War II Victory Medal

American Campaign Medal

World War II Occupation Navy Medal

National Defense Service with Bronze Star

Marine Corps Reserve Medal

UN Korean Service Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Korean Presidential Unit Citation Commemorative Medal

Korean War Veteran Medal

Ribbons

Combat Action Ribbon

Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with 3 Bronze Stars

Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon

Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation Ribbon

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation Ribbon

Republic of Korean Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon

Lieutenant Colonel Kalus, the beloved son of Mrs. Mary Vesely of Cleveland, Ohio, and Louis Kalus of St. Louis, Missouri. He was married to the former Janet M. Wolcott of Lakewood, Ohio for 74 years. They met in Cleveland Ohio. Mrs. Janet Kalus passed away on August 31, 2022, at the age of 97. Together, they shared the joys and challenges of life, raising three sons and a daughter: James, Janet, Gary, and David (deceased on August 31, 2017).



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Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Kalus leaves behind a lasting legacy of courage, dedication, and unwavering service to his country, and a loving family man. His memory will forever inspire those who had the privilege of knowing him, and his contributions to the Marine Corps and the United States of America will never be forgotten. Burial will be held Saturday, November 18, 2023 at Mililani Memorial Park Cemetery at 11:00 am.

Attire: Casual Flowers: Welcome

To send flowers
to the family, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



Tribute Wall

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The Family Of Gerard Sweeney (Usmc, 1948-52) posted:

B7 was purchased for the family of Thomas Kalus by The family of Gerard Sweeney (USMC, 1948-52). Send FlowersPlease accept our most heartfelt condolences for your loss as our Dad served with Tom during the Korean War.One more Marine is now guarding the streets of Heavens scenes.Semper Fidelis!The family of Gerard Sweeney (USMC, 1948-52)

May 14 at 4:02 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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