Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
5th Generation Family Owned & Operated Since 1949.



Edward Chester Massey

Sept. 19, 1936 - May 15, 2026

Edward Chester Massey, age 89, of Morganton, North Carolina, passed away peacefully on May 15, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on September 19, 1936, in Umatilla, Florida, Edward lived a life defined by service, dedication, strength, and love for his family. He proudly served in the United States Army, with deployments that included tours in Korea and in Vietnam as a Chief helicopter mechanic. During his military career, he also served in the presidential flight detachment under Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson. Edward retired honorably from the Army as a Sergeant First Class after 20 years of service.

His distinguished military honors included the Air Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Vietnam Service Medal, Good Conduct Award (five-time recipient), Senior Aircraft Crewman Badge, Mechanic Badge with Aircraft Mechanic Bar, and Mechanic Badge with Crew Chief Bar.

Outside of work, he found peace and happiness in gardening, hunting and fishing, watching football and NASCAR, spending time with family, and enjoying the beauty and quiet of nature.

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Edward was preceded in death by his parents, Leta Rae Hannage and David Brown Massey; his brothers, David Lamar Massey and Ralph Massey; his sister, Faye Laverne Massey; and his son, Mark Edward Massey.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Donna Massey; his sons, Michael Wayne Massey and Steve Alden Massey (Tammy); and his grandchildren, Jared Alexander Massey, Malea Elisabeth Avery (Raleigh), and Justin Michael Massey.

Edward will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to his country, his work ethic, his quiet strength, and the deep love he carried for his family. His legacy of service and resilience will live on through all who knew and loved him.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at Sossoman Funeral Home. The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. in the Colonial Chapel of the funeral home with Rev. Mike Johnson officiating. Burial will follow in Burke Memorial Park with military honors provided by the US Army.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the North Carolina State Veterans Home Living Facility in Black Mountain. Their compassion and service to the Massey family is a true blessing.

The family sincerely appreciates the thoughts, prayers, and support extended to them during this time.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



–curtiss L. Poteat



All my love to the family! Edward was a special cousin, wonderful man.

–Joyce Bellew

My dear Family- Know that I am with you today, and always, in my heart! Ed was special, and I can still recall that laugh of his! Cousin Donna & Ed's marriage was a long and happy one! I think that Ed has already located Mark & Uncle Sid & they are preparing for a fishing trip! He dearly loved his family and his country-his military record of honors speaks for itself! Donna was in my wedding, I was in hers--we grew up two streets apart & six months part in age in Alexandria, Va. I knew exactly when Donna & Ed fell in love----they raised a beautiful family in which it is ny honor to be a part of. Ed was a handsome fellow, and was lately referred to by granddaughter Malea, as "Chick Bate" --all enjoyed that reference. Ed and the family battled his Agent Orange for a good many years---it is comforting to know he now rests, free of pain--in the loving hands of God, and may he bless each and every one of of you with health and love--!

—Linda Cunningham Goldstein

Dear Loved Ones, What precious memories of all of you. We are all so saddened to learn of Eddie's passing. Know that you are all being lifted in prayer as you

make this journey. Love and Prayers, Sandra Gout and Family

—Sandra Gout



We are praying for peace, comfort, and strength during this heartbreaking time. "The Lord is close to the broken hearted" Psalm 34:18 We love you all.

—Brandy Alexander

Rest in peace dear friend! Well done thou good and faithful friend!Your kindness and support over the years will never be forgotten!

—Glenda Truax



Sending condolences, love and prayers for peace Love

—Debra Fox-Helser