

**Graveside Service for  
Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Robert M. Delia,  
US Army, Retired  
March 20, 1931 ~ January 12, 2023**





**Graveside Religious Service,  
Rev. Michael Rattin, Pastor,  
Faith Baptist Church, Hollis, NH**

**Military Honors**

**Singing of the Army Song**

## Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I'm found

Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares

I have already come

T'is grace that brought me safe thus far

And grace will lead me home

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost, but now I'm found

Was blind but now I see

## **Be Still, My Soul**

**1. Be still, my soul: The Lord is on thy side;  
With patience bear thy cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: Thy best, thy heav'nly Friend  
Thru thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**2. Be still, my soul: Thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysteries shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

**3. Be still, my soul: The hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
Be still, my soul: When change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

# **CSM Robert M. Delia**

**Enlisted in the US Army 23 March 1948, Basic Training – Fort Knox, Kentucky**

**Date of Retirement: 30 June 1978**

**Length of Service: 30 years 3 months 7 days**

**Command Sergeant Major Robert M. Delia, U. S. Army (Retired) passed away on January 12, 2023 at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, MA. He was 91. Mr. Delia was born on March 20, 1931 in South St. Paul, Minnesota son of the late Katharine (Kovacs) and Charles Delia.**

**When promoted to Sergeant Major in January 1967, he was one of the youngest Sergeants Major in the Army at the age of 35 years with 18 years of service. The average age and years of service were 45 years old and 24 years of service at that time.**

**He was one of the first Sergeants Major to be appointed to Command Sergeant Major, July 1968, the month when the US Army first created the Command Sergeant Major rank. He served as Battalion CSM for 1st Bn, 13th Infantry and 2nd Bn, 68th Armor in Baumholder, Germany, interrupted by two assignments to Vietnam where he served as Battalion CSM for the 2nd Bn, 28th Infantry and the 158th Aviation Battalion.**

**Since 1978 he had been a member of the Chief of Staff of the Army New England Area Retiree Council and was its Co-Chairman for 4 years, 1984-1988, and again the Co-Chairman in 1996. He was a member of Groton Pepperell Rotary from 1978 to 1994 and was its President from 1983-84. He was a member of the Board of Management of the Ayer Armed Services YMCA from 1985 to 1992 and was the Chairman during all of this period. On 19 June 1988 he was awarded the “National Civilian Volunteer Leader of the Year 1987” plaque for exceptional volunteer leadership and involvement with the U.S. military and their family members at the YMCA General Assembly in Boston, Mass. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Armed Services YMCA. From 1991 to 1994 he served as Vice-President for Non-Commissioned Officers and Enlisted Affairs for the Association of the U.S. Army First Region encompassing the nine North Eastern States; Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He was also a Board Member of the Minuteman Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army.**

**He was a life member of the following: Military Order of the Purple Heart, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, The Retired Sergeants Major and Chiefs Association, Combat Infantrymen’s Association, and the three Divisions he was in combat with – 1st Cavalry Division Association (Korea), Society of the 1st Infantry Division (Vietnam) and the 101st Airborne Division Association (Vietnam). Member of the Association of the United States Army, National Association of Uniformed Services, American Military Society and Special Forces Association.**

His wife of 51 years, Joan, died on October 5, 2004. She was the epitome of the Army Wife – “Army Wife, the toughest job in the Army.” She was a great partner while he served in the Army and after his retirement. Joan accompanied her veteran husband on his many military assignments in the United States and overseas. They served three assignments at the former Fort Devens, where her husband served as Post Command Sergeant Major from 1973 – 1978. Joan was very well known in the Fort Devens Community for her active membership on numerous boards and helping soldiers and their families. She also worked at the Post dental clinic as a Red Cross dental assistant. Mrs. Delia was recognized for her selfless service with the many awards she received from the military units and associations she and her husband belonged to. She was also a recipient of a service award from the Boston Armed Services YMCA.

Bob had been active in all his retirement years in helping retirees get information on their benefits and helping them get their benefits from the VA. He has taken them to the VA Admin Office in Boston, VA Hospital in Boston and the DAV office in Boston. He also enjoyed traveling with Joan, exploring many inns and beds and breakfast in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

Together with Joan, Mr. Delia raised four children: daughter Kimberly was born in 1954 in St. Paul, MN; son Bruce was born in 1955 at Fort Carson, CO; son Terry was born in 1959 at Fort Devens, MA; daughter Robin was born in 1962 at the Presidio of San Francisco, CA. He also had two grandchildren, Benjamin and Terry.

In accordance with Bob’s wishes, no public services will be held. He will be laid to rest during a private ceremony at Woodlawn Cemetery, Pepperell alongside his late wife, Joan.

**Assignments:**

**Japan July 1948 to June 1950**

**Korea June 1950 to August 1951 – Korean War**

**USA August 1951 to November 1956**

**Korea November 1956 to March 1958**

**USA March 1958 to December 1961**

**Korea December 1961 to January 1963**

**USA January 1963 to August 1967**

**Germany August 1967 to July 1969**

**Vietnam August 1969 to August 1970 – Vietnam War**

**Germany October 1970 to June 1973**

**USA June 1973 to June 1978**

### Principal Duty Assignments the Last Fifteen Years of Service

**Jun 1973 to Jun 1978 Post Command Sergeant Major, Fort Devens, Massachusetts**

**Aug 1970 to Jun 1973 Battalion Command Sergeant Major, 2nd Battalion 68th Armor, Baumholder Germany**

**Feb 1970 to Aug 1970 Battalion Command Sergeant Major, 158th Aviation Battalion, Vietnam**

**Aug 1969 to Feb 1970 Battalion Command Sergeant Major, 2nd Battalion 28th Infantry, Vietnam**

**Aug 1967 to Aug 1969 Battalion Command Sergeant Major, 1st Battalion 13th Infantry, Baumholder, Germany**

**Jan 1967 to Aug 1967 Chief Enlisted Advisor (Sergeant Major), 76th Reserve Training Division, West Hartford Connecticut**

**Jul 1965 to Jan 1967 First Sergeant, HQ XIII US Army Corps, Fort Devens, Mass.**

**Feb 1963 to Jul 1965 US Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (New England Area Colleges and Universities) Admin/Operations Noncommissioned Officer, HQ XIII US Army Corps, Fort Devens, Massachusetts**

### Awards:

**Combat Infantryman's Badge w/star (2 awards) (Korea and Vietnam)**

**Legion of Merit**

**Bronze Star Medal w/V device w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters (4 awards)**

**Purple Heart medal w /Oak Leaf Cluster (2 awards) (Korea and Vietnam)**

**Meritorious Service Medal**

**Air Medal w/4 device (5 awards)**

**Army Commendation Medal w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters (3 awards)**

**Good Conduct Medal w/5 silver knots (10 awards)**

**Army of Occupation Medal, WWII**

**National Defense Service Ribbon w/Oak Leaf Cluster (2 awards)**

**Korean Campaign Ribbon w/6 battle stars**

**Vietnam Campaign Medal w 4 battle stars**

**Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Bonze Star**

**United Nations Medal (Korea)**

**Vietnamese Service Medal w/60 device**

**American Unit Presidential Citation (2 awards)**

**Valorous Unit Award w/Oak Leaf Cluster (2 awards)**

**Korean Presidential Unit Citation**

**Vietnamese Cross of gallantry w/Palm (5 awards)**

**Vietnamese Civic Action Medal w/Palm (5 awards)**

**Korean War Service Medal**

**Order of Saint Maurice Recipient – Centurion Level – Infantry – Medal**



**Excerpt from General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's "Duty, Honor, Country" Speech at West Point on May 12, 1962**

And what sort of soldiers are those you are to lead? Are they reliable? Are they brave? Are they capable of victory?

Their story is known to all of you. It is the story of the American man-at-arms. My estimate of him was formed on the battlefield many, many years ago, and has never changed. I regarded him then, as I regard him now, as one of the world's noblest figures; not only as one of the finest military characters, but also as one of the most stainless.

His name and fame are the birthright of every American citizen. In his youth and strength, his love and loyalty, he gave all that mortality can give. He needs no eulogy from me; or from any other man. He has written his own history and written it in red on his enemy's breast.

But when I think of his patience in adversity of his courage under fire and of his modesty in victory, I am filled with an emotion of admiration I cannot put into words. He belongs to history as furnishing one of the greatest examples of successful patriotism. He belongs to posterity as the instructor of future generations in the principles of liberty and freedom. He belongs to the present, to us, by his virtues and by his achievements.

## **“The Army Goes Rolling Along”**

**First to fight for the right, and to build  
the Nation’s might, And the Army Goes  
Rolling Along**

**Proud of all we have done, Fighting till  
the battle’s won, And the Army Goes  
Rolling Along.**

**Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on its  
way. Count off the cadence loud and  
strong**

**For where e’er we go, you will always  
know That the Army Goes Rolling  
Along.**