



Steven Edward Quintana

September 16, 1950 - December 7, 2016

Steven Edward Quintana – “Chico” - Shiyadaa Kaa, Kahklen (Kaa Klin), age 66, passed away at his home December 7, 2016 in Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina from advanced diabetes connected to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. Steve was born September 16, 1950 in Glendale, Los Angeles County, California to Jean Esther Messina Quintana Slaughter and Arthur Chacon Quintana who preceded him in death.

He graduated from Channel Islands High School, Oxnard, Ventura County, California. In the Army he was an UH-1 Huey crew chief and door gunner in Vietnam with Little Bears, “A” Company, 25th Aviation Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. Their motto was “We fly for the troops”. He was awarded two Bronze Stars. After getting out of the Army in December 1972, he worked with his father at Karl’s Shoe Store in Los Angeles, California. A few years later he moved his family to Colorado where he attended Colorado Aero Tech. He earned his licenses as an airframe powerplant (A&P) mechanic and single engine airplane pilot. He went to work with Era Helicopters Juneau, Alaska flying the Trans Alaska Pipeline stretching 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. He joined the Alaska Army National Guard. In 1979 Chico became a full-time aircraft mechanic for the Guard. As a civilian, he worked at the Alaska Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility (AASF) on Fort Richardson, Alaska as the UH-1 Huey and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters propeller and rotor mechanic. In 2004 he retired as an aviation maintenance supervisor. He also retired as an Army soldier in 2004. He was most proud of the years he served as the First Sergeant, Headquarters Company, 1/207th Aviation Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard.

In 2009 Steve earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Education with special emphasis in Aviation Maintenance from Wayland Baptist University in Anchorage, Alaska then joined his wife who had transferred in 2007 from Alaska to the W.G. “Bill” Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury North, Carolina.

He had the privilege of performing many weddings for friends and his children as a Wedding Officiant. In addition to his passion for Aviation, he loved giving of himself. He

truly passed his blessings forward by providing gifts to those less fortunate. It was not uncommon for him to take several cards off a Christmas tree of needs and purchase everything listed on them.

One of Chico's most enduring and extraordinary experiences began in the fall of 1989 when he stepped into the title role of Santa Claus – with the Alaska National Guard's, well-known and possibly famous, Operation Santa Claus. One of the key purposes of Operation Santa Claus was to assure that Alaskan children in remote villages would have a Christmas despite any disasters that may have befallen their communities earlier in the year. Knowing the mission, Chico brought his love for children, and people in general, to the show. Over time, Operation Santa Claus grew into a much beloved community relations program reaching up to several thousand children in villages annually. It became clear, early on, that Chico would likely have passed any blood test that Ancestry.com might have devised for assuring that Santa's bloodline was alive. As the program grew, so grew the interest of others in Santa Claus – year around. Whether appearing at concerts with the Air Force Band of the Pacific, responding to interviews with radio stations, and news reporters – he and Mrs. Claus were always up for it. Their goodwill added understanding for Operation Santa Claus. It was Chico who brought such a high degree of dignity and authority to this special assignment. Together with Mrs. Claus, he held babies, children and seasoned citizens – everyone wanted to be listened to by Santa Claus – and Chico made sure that happened with selfless grace, able humor, and respectful love of others. He really never had to act. He simply called upon his better angels. It's rare when someone can ever say they've had such a wide impact on so many others. The funny thing is – Chico wouldn't be the one to point that out. It will remain for others to describe how their lives are better because he was in it. He never expected anything, and he always gave everything. His service to his Nation – through the U.S. Army and Alaska Army National Guard – is a matter of extraordinary record. His selfless work with Operation Santa Claus, on behalf of tens of thousands of Alaskan children, is sealed in their hearts, minds and spirits. Forever.

Steve was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Salisbury. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9785 Eagle River, Alaska and Disabled American Veterans; a member of the American Legion, Post 185 China Grove, North Carolina.

Chico was first adopted in 1993 by the matriarch of the of the family, Vivian (Demeret) Kahklen (Kaa-Klin) in a beautiful Tlingit ceremony. Her son, State Command Sergeant Major Kahklen, was among those killed in the Alaska Army National Guard C-12 airplane crash in November 1992. Chico's name became Kara Klan, the big man, Kahklen. Subsequently Chico officially became Kahklen and was bestowed the name Shiyaada

Kaa, sharing his fallen brother Archie Llewelyn Kahklen's Tlingit family name. "Joe and Vivian thought of him as a true blood son and he always felt in his heart they were Mom and Pop. His pride, love and honor he wore on his sleeve every day of his life, sends happiness and pride through hearts and souls of the Kahklen family".

Steve was the loving and devoted husband, best friend, and life companion of Lexia A. Frasher-Quintana for 24 wonderful years. He was a beloved father to Dustin Quintana, Concord, North Carolina; Erica Quintana Atchley (Eric) Kansas City, Missouri; and step-father to Melissa Rich Myers (Steve) Woodburn, Kentucky. He was proud and honored of being called Grandpa by Theresa (Patrick) Marietta, Georgia and Darwin, Huntersville, North Carolina; Nicolas, Donovan, Minnie Kansas City, Missouri and Erynn, Boston, Massachusetts; Meadow and Raegan, Woodburn, Kentucky and Joseph, Meridian, Idaho; Jessica (Tim) Stafford, Virginia; Avery, Anchorage, Alaska; and GGPa to Avalon and Gaelen, Stafford, Virginia.

Additional survivors include three brothers, Larry (Kim) Modesto, California; Mark (Karen) Loveland, Colorado; Lance Slaughter (Marcine) Fresno, California; nieces and nephews dear to him, Dominic, New York, New York; Stephanie (Trent) and Stuart, Loveland, Colorado; Tara (Matt) Modesto, California; Tess (Bryan) San Jose, California; Andrew, Morro Bay, California; and Ashley (Fresno, California); numerous cousins in California and Oregon; Ben Carlton, his cherished personal assistant of three years; and home care givers Tamar, Whitney and Destin to whom the family will be forever grateful. Chico was an inspiration and mentor to many, he had countless loving and faithful friends across the United States.

The family of Steven E "Chico" Quintana wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to the doctors, nurses, and staff of the W.G. "Bill" Hefner VA Medical Center – outpatient, inpatient, rehabilitation services; Bayada Home Health Care; and Rowan Hospice and Palliative Care for their excellent physical, emotional, and spiritual care.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11 AM Monday (Dec. 12) at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Salisbury, NC, conducted by Father John Eckert. Burial will be in Fort Richardson National Cemetery in Anchorage, Alaska at a later date.

Memorials may be made to: Rowan Hospice & Palliative Care, 720 Grove Street, Salisbury, NC 28144; The Salvation Army Alaska Division, 143 E. 9th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Quintana family. Online condolences may be made to www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

MV

“ We couldn't have asked for a more dear friend to all of us and Ralph. Some many times talking flying and laughing.
Love Veda, Monte

Monte, Veda - December 12, 2016 at 12:32 PM

LV

“ Leslie, Monte, Veda lit a candle in memory of Steven Edward Quintana



Leslie, Monte, Veda - December 12, 2016 at 12:29 PM

GB

“ Lexia, I am so sorry for your loss. May God wrap his arms around you and give you comfort and peace.
Georgia Frasher Bowe

Georgia Frasher Bowe - December 12, 2016 at 10:35 AM

TK

“ Thank goodness for fun memories! Chico added so much to so many lives and especially to our family. He was such a comfort to all of us in times of great challenge. His kindness and good humor added much to any occasion - whether it was at a weekend barbecue, Christmas Eve or at one of his legendary Halloween parties (I haven't donned a Halloween costume since). I look back on his attempts to teach my daughter Robyn and I to dance the two-step on the deck at Peters Creek. He never gave up on our feeble attempt to try to learn the dance. Likewise, his Santa role was cherished by so many. He made many a Christmas for the children in our family...and the adults. ;-) We all took turns getting our picture taken sitting on Santa's lap - even our Dad. We were truly blessed with his kindness and his becoming a member of our family. I trust that he was welcomed by brother Archie and our Mom and Dad.

Sending you big hugs and much love today and the days ahead. Take very good care Lexia. Will look forward to seeing you.

Toni Kahklen-Hoffman

Toni Kahklen-Hoffman - December 11, 2016 at 01:09 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to Chico's family. You are in my prayers and thoughts. Chico put a smile on the face of every life he touched.*

Diane Sanborn - December 11, 2016 at 09:43 AM

SJ

“ *Sgt Johnson lit a candle in memory of Steven Edward Quintana*



Sgt Johnson - December 10, 2016 at 05:54 PM

HR

“ *Harlan and Diane Robarge purchased the Strength & Solace S pray for the family of Steven Edward Quintana.*



Harlan and Diane Robarge - December 10, 2016 at 03:50 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven Edward Quintana.*



December 10, 2016 at 02:19 PM

JP

“ *What a wonderful man Steve was. It was our privilege to be around him when he came to visit Mark and the family in Colorado. Last time we saw him we all went to the zoo for the day. Fond memories....God bless Steve and his family!
Frank & Joanne Parrish*

Joanne Parrish - December 10, 2016 at 01:39 PM

MS

“ Michele, Daisy and Sophie purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Steven Edward Quintana.



Michele, Daisy and Sophie - December 10, 2016 at 01:11 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Steven Edward Quintana.



December 10, 2016 at 01:00 PM

LB

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Little Bears - December 10, 2016 at 12:45 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven Edward Quintana.



December 10, 2016 at 12:03 PM

JE

“ When my kids were young. "Chicoclaus" would make a special visit to our house before Christmas to ask them what they wanted and make sure they were being good. My kids are now 23 and 25. To this day they both remember how excited and special he made them feel by getting their own Santa visit. Those visits also meant the world to me! Thank you Chico

John Edmunson - December 10, 2016 at 11:22 AM

RC

“ Lexia, thank you for introducing me to a great man. I hope that the Lord consul you in your Loss. But he touched many lives, and had brought happiness to you and his family and friends in his journey of life my friend! Roland

Roland Cabiad - December 10, 2016 at 09:51 AM

SF

“ Susan Forbes lit a candle in memory of Steven Edward Quintana



Susan Forbes - December 10, 2016 at 09:47 AM

SQ

Love you Candyman! You'll be forever missed

Stephanie Quintana - December 10, 2016 at 11:49 AM

JD

“ Lexia, we are so saddened to learn of Chico's passing. He truly was one of God's best angels. May you feel our love, as well as God's love, comfort, and encompassing strength. Lloyd & Judy

Judy P. Deal - December 10, 2016 at 09:20 AM



“ Although i never knew Steve, i know Lexia and, through her, i know he was a person i would have loved to have had as a friend. I am truly sorry for the loss to Lexia and others in his family and friends, and will keep everyone in my prayers.



Bob Hibbard - December 10, 2016 at 09:14 AM

CR

“ It was an honor and pleasure to have been just one of many nurses who worked with you.you taught me how to love life.thank you Chico for that.i enjoyed meeting you and Lexie at the CLC VA. Cindy rogers

Cindy rogers - December 10, 2016 at 12:33 AM