

# Major George Kerlek, Jr. United States Marine Corps (retired)

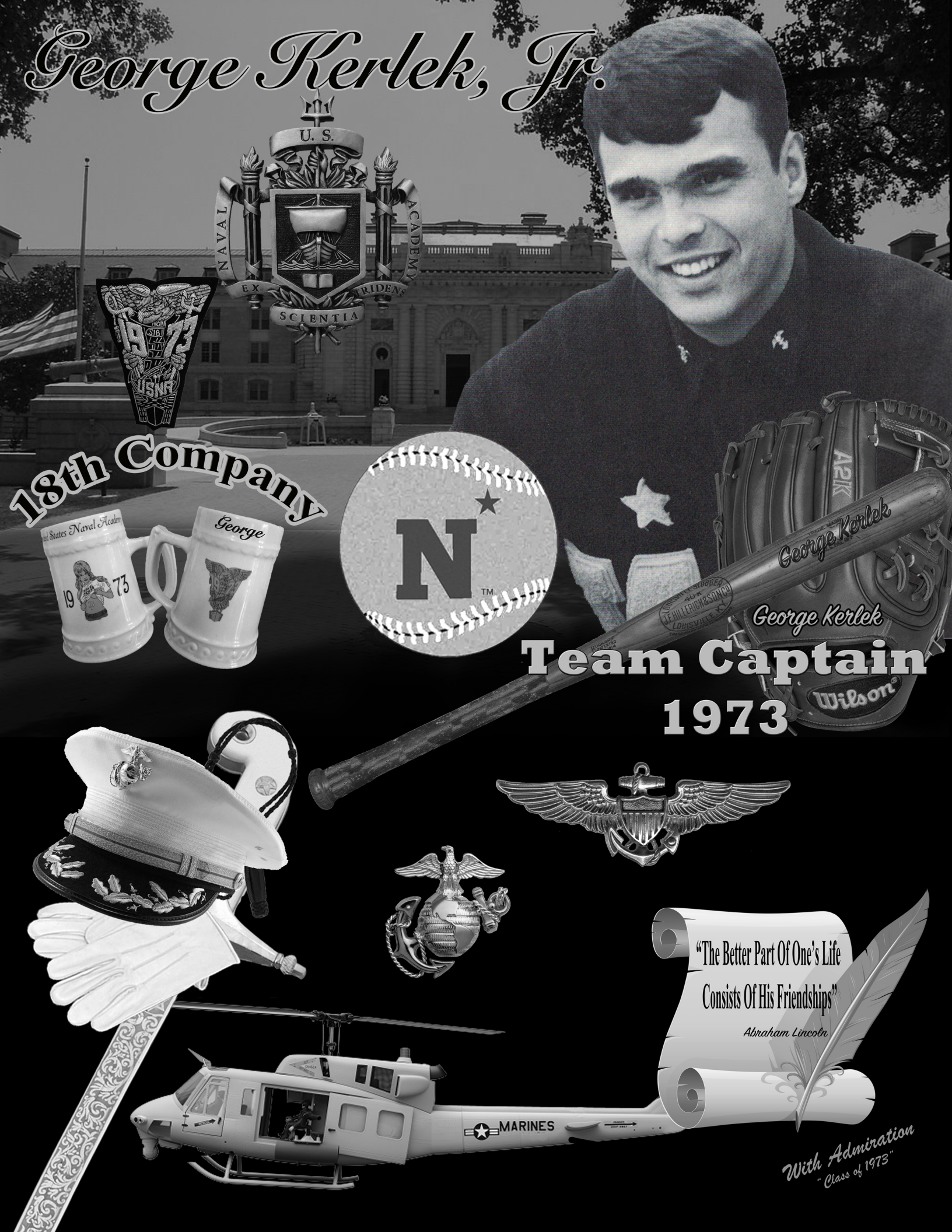
Maj. George Kerlek, Jr., 66 of New Middletown, Ohio, died peacefully on July 8, 2017. He was born September 16, 1950, in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of the late Juley (Pitzo) and George Kerlek, Sr. He graduated from Struthers High School in 1968 and attended Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, graduating in 1973. He was a pitcher for the Navy baseball team and was a team captain during his senior year. During his playing career, he beat Army three times. After graduating from the academy, he chose to enter the Marine Corps, where he became a "Huey" helicopter pilot. During the Beirut, Lebanon conflict, he served as the pilot for American diplomat Philip Habib, who mediated between Lebanon and Israel. He later served as a helicopter flight instructor in Pensacola, Florida and New River, North Carolina and worked as a personnel and logistics coordinator at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and the Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. He retired as a Major in 1993, after a 20 year military career. After retiring, he renovated his family's century old farm house in New Middletown, which he affectionately dubbed "The Farm". He actively served in the Lions Club in New Middletown and the American Legion in Bessemer, Pennsylvania. He was well known for his friendly demeanor, keen intelligence, broad knowledge of many subjects, love of cooking and canning and generosity in giving his time and energy to projects. He was a member of the Sovereign Grace Chapel church in Youngstown. His close friends and family called him "Boodzie" a moniker given to him by his sister, Karen, who as a young child mispronounced the Slovak word for "brother". In high school he was nicknamed "Foyt" after famed race-car driver, A. J. Foyt, because of his lead foot. During his time in the military, the men in his helicopter squadron called him "Bubba". He is survived by his son, Jason Kerlek of Bristow, Virginia; his daughter, Katie (Doug) Kirchner of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; his sister, Karen A. Miller of Phoenix, Arizona; his brothers, John R. Kerlek of New Middletown and David C. Kerlek of Naples, Florida; his seven grandchildren, Michael Kerlek, Patrick Kerlek, Teresa Kerlek, Katerina Kerlek, Ian Kirchner, Mason Kirchner and Eli Kirchner and his many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He is also survived by his cousin, Judy Peck, to whom he was very close. Every morning he would visit with her to have coffee and read the local paper. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandchild, Skyler Kirchner. Interment will be in the United States Naval Academy Cemetery and Columbarium in Annapolis, Maryland. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.oakmeadowcremation.com](http://www.oakmeadowcremation.com) Memorial donations in George's name may be made to the New Middletown Lions Club, 97 Woodland Drive, New Middletown, Ohio 44442 or Hospice House, 9803 Sharrott Road, Poland, Ohio 44514. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4



[Obituarydata.com](http://Obituarydata.com)



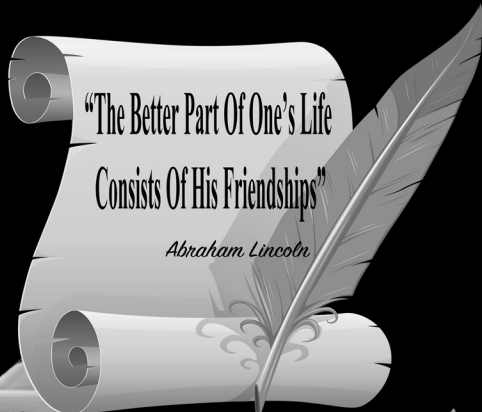
# George Kerlek, Jr.



18th Company



Team Captain  
1973



"The Better Part Of One's Life  
Consists Of His Friendships"

Abraham Lincoln

With Admiration  
"Class of 1973"



*Semper Fidelis.  
George*



*It Can Not be Inherited  
Nor Can it Ever be Purchased  
You or No One Alive  
can Buy It for Any Price  
It is Impossible to Rent  
and It Can Not be Lent  
You Alone and Our Own  
have Earned It  
with Your Sweat, Blood and Lives.  
You Own It Forever  
The Title*

**"UNITED STATES MARINE"**





## The Marines Prayer

Almighty Father , whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and Thee without shame or fear. Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.

If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.

Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.



AMEN.