



Reese Porter Helmer Jr.

November 24, 1929 - May 18, 2020

Reese Porter Helmer, Jr., 90, passed peacefully at home in Port Tobacco, MD, his home for 47 years, Monday, May 18, 2020.

He leaves behind his wife of 67 years, Helen (Wright) Helmer, formerly of Hattiesburg, MS, his daughters, Mary Helen (John) Burris, Cathie (Richard) Guimond, Angela (Dave) Russell, grandson, Jason Davis, and sister, Mary Elizabeth Feldman.

Born and raised in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Reese graduated with his father, from Mississippi Southern College (Phi Kappa Tau). He then proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, before beginning his 25-year career with the U.S. Census Bureau. Reese, along with his wife, enjoyed many years of being a licensed ham radio operator. He will be fondly remembered by family and friends as a loving husband, father and grandfather.

A private family service will be held June 5th at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations will gladly be accepted to fight Alzheimer's Disease at Alzheimer's Association, <https://act.alz.org/site/Donation2>.

Cemetery Details

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery

11301 Crain Hwy
Cheltenham, MD 20623

Tribute Wall



“ *Reese Porter Helmer Jr.*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Reese Porter Helmer Jr.*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ Using the miracle of google, I looked up an old friend from over 52 yrs ago and just discovered his obituary – Reece Helmer who died in 2020 at age 90. Hopefully it is never too late to contribute to share a memory.

As I write this, I am now 68 and marginally wiser than when I met Reece in 1970. He had joined our local summer bicycle club in Louisville, although he lived across the river in Southern Indiana. In the bike club, there were three types of members:

1. Serious adults who barely tolerated testosterone fuelled teenagers,
2. Testosterone fuelled teenagers,
3. Adults by age only who enjoyed and encouraged the second group.

Two of those great fellows in the third group were Reece Helmer and former Navy fighter pilot, Butch Mosely. Although Reece was about 40, and considered really old by our standards, he had a great sense of fun, told bawdy jokes and could easily relate to us tedious teens. Looking back, he was a vital adult role model for those of us especially who were living in split or confused families. Reece was a reluctant civil servant with a great sense of fun. He most likely worked only to fund all his eclectic hobbies. We were also fond of Reese, because he had two attractive teenage daughters that materialised from time to time at our bike club events.

Reese still had that earthy sense of humor. At a Louisville Wheelman Club AGM, there was a motion to create a badge or logo which was eventually done using a dignified fleur de lis. However, this historical discussion was nearly sabotaged when both Butch and Reese immediately sketched a proposal and solemnly proposed it to the club president. It was a picture of an excessively cheery bike rider on top of a spinning toilet roll with the unravelling toilet paper squares representing the road ahead. The caption beneath read: “Merrily We Roll Along”.

Most spring, summer and autumn Sundays were spent meeting at various Jerry’s Restaurants for a ride to some small town outside Louisville and back. Carbo loading, circa early 1970s, was a Jerry’s

stack of pancakes.

I recall that Reese kindly organised a group of us to go to interstate bike tours for the first time and also to the Kelly's Island (Ohio) Criterium in July.

We also attended the first Labor Day Tri State Tour to Cincinnati. The highlight of that trip was staying on (not in) the multi story Holiday Inn in downtown Cincinnati. Someone had left the access door to the roof unlocked, so we camped out on the roof. Reece was aware of all this and am sure was jealous he was not able to join us.

We can never have enough Reece's.

Best wishes to his wife and family. - Scott Lee, Perth Australia

Scott Lee - February 21, 2023 at 05:32 AM

HI

“ May 26, 2020

I've met some famous and interesting people...Pres. Bush, Senator Jim McClure from Idaho, Secy of the Interior, all in the Oval Office, had dinner with the President, Sen. Dole in DC & Prince Charles (not the dog) in London and hundreds of their closest friends...oh, almost forgot, the very attractive Secy of the Treaury under Bush, and Lord Vesty, one of the richest in England. But, none were as interesting as brother/cousin Reese, who accounts for my wanderlust.

I was 5-11 years of age and Reese was 14-22. He taught me how to climb up the wall of a building at the girls' school in Brookhaven, showed me how to jump out of the top of a pine tree into the Leaf Creek, crawl though the rafters over a performance of a play at Mississippi Southern College, where he was in charge of lighting, how to ride a 1947 Indian motorcycle and drive a 1952 MG to Gulfport, where we spent the night at his room, just in time for him to go to work at the Mississippi Power & Light Co.

I was left alone on that foggy Saturday morning, so I entertained myself by walking to the boat docks and examining all the shrimp and oyster boats moving gently at the dock. Reese finished up before lunch and we made our way to the Friendship House on the Beachfront for a little spagetti and meatballs treat. As luck would have it, Reese forgot his wallet. What to do?

His solution was to leave me at the cafe as a deposit until he returned with his wallet. I had no doubt he would return. He did and years later, I was able to repay his generosity by invoking my connections with the Senators from Miss., Ark., and Tenn., whose combined efforts interceded to protect Reese from a RIF (reduction in force) at the Census Bureau in DC. Senator Eastland was at the forefront. Reese commented, "What did you do? When I walk down the hall at the office, everybody walks around me!" Reese was kind, generous and inspirational. Love and RIP Reese.

Harry, Jr.

Harry Ireland - May 26, 2020 at 06:44 AM

PC

“ *Very sad to hear of Reese' passing. My heartfelt sympathy to Mary Helen, Helen, Cathie, Angela and the whole family. I am sorry I cannot be there in oerson to lend some comfort and pay tribute to a life well lived.*

*Best regards,
Pat Curtin*

Pat Curtin - May 22, 2020 at 11:48 AM

JB

“ *Reese, thank you for your Love, Kindness, and our Friendship. There will always be a special place in my heart for my father-in-law. I will miss our conversations. Love John*

John Burris - May 20, 2020 at 09:25 PM