



Railsplitter Obituary



Vance Coleman

22 May 1930 - 31 August 2021

Vance Coleman, age 91, of Sun City, Arizona passed away on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 . Vance was born May 22, 1930.

MG Coleman commanded the 84th Division (Tng).

U.S. Army Major General Vance Coleman, a year-round resident of Sun City and former President of the RCSC and former President of the Sun City Democrat Club passed away from cancer, Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

Vance Coleman was proud of his ascension from being a son of a Arkansas sharecropper, who overcame the racism of the mid-twentieth



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century and made decisions projecting him into leadership positions in everything he did.

He volunteered for military service in 1947. After serving in Germany, he entered OCS training in Field Artillery at Fort Sill. He served with the 623rd Field Artillery where he caught shrapnel in the eye.

After leaving the military he earned his masters degree and worked in various positions creating housing and educational equity for the City of Milwaukee.

In 1972 he was recruited to enter the Army Reserve where he continued to serve until he reached his 36th year of service.

Once retiring from the military, he moved to Sun City where he was an advisor on the board and then was convinced that he could help preside as president over board of the RCSC. He made great strides in making the recreation facilities more accessible and inviting to its members.

He loved his country, his family, playing golf and laughing with his friends. He enjoyed spending time with his “buddy,” Oliver, his dog.

Vance is survived by his sons, Michael and Gary and his wife, Marie Claude as well as by his daughter, Michelle. Gary is the father of Vance’s grandchildren: Alexis, Dylan and Nick.

Video appearances of MG Coleman are available on C-Span.

Paste this url into your web browser or click on the link below:

<https://www.c-span.org/person/?1029391/VanceColeman>

Open a PDF featuring an interview with then BG Coleman by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center.



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In this oral history interview, Vance Coleman, a Milwaukee, Wisconsin native, discusses his Korean War service with the 623rd Field Artillery and his experiences as a black soldier in the recently integrated Army.

Coleman talks about Quartermaster School at Fort Lee (Virginia) and his assignment to Germany including his duties as a clerk, recreation activities, and attitudes of Germans toward Americans. He details Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill (Oklahoma) where he was the only black graduate of his class and his initial assignment with the 31st Infantry in Alabama although he was later reassigned due to his race. Coleman describes his duties as an artillery officer in Korea, artillery firing and maintenance processes, and problems caused by Korean weather such as frostbite and the danger of freezing to death. He touches upon his experience in a military hospital, duties with the First Cavalry in Japan and use of the GI Bill. Coleman comments on joining the Reserve, taking courses from the War College, current decline in enlistment numbers, benefits of service, and treatment of blacks in the military.

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<https://wisvetsmuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Coleman-Vance-OH65.pdf>