

# Remembrance

## **Master Sgt. Roger Elmer Schechinger**

**55**

**July 17, 1964 –  
Feb. 26, 2020**



Roger Elmer Schechinger was born July 17, 1964 in Harlan, IA. Roger passed away February 26, 2020 at Loma Linda University in Murrieta, CA, at the age of 55 years, 7 months, 9 days. He grew up in Westphalia, IA and graduated from Harlan Community High School in Harlan.

Roger married Ichiko Matsuda on October 20, 1989 in Naha, Okinawa, Japan and they had one daughter, Tiana. He enjoyed spending time with family and doing home improvements. Roger liked to golf, cook, BBQ, entertain friends, neighbors, and have his daughters friends over.

Roger joined the Marine Corps on April 29, 1985 and received an honorable discharge when he retired as a Master Sgt. on April 30, 2005 after 20 years of service. During this time he served as a Marine Combat Engineer for 13 years in Okinawa, Japan; a Marine recruiter for 3 years in Omaha, NE; and a Marine Ground Safety Specialist for 4 years. Roger served time in the Marine Expeditionary Unit in Somalia and with the Marine American Security Forces during the military coup in the Philippines. Roger was awarded and honored with many prestigious decorations, medals, badges, citations, and ribbons. Of these were included the Korean Defense Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (w/2 Silver and 3 Bronze Stars), Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (w/2 Stars), National Defense Service Medal (w/1 Star), Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Somalia) and many more. Roger also received recognition in Okinawa as being the only Marine Safety Officer for his 9,500/member division for setting safety standards that caused a 25% reduction in accidents for the unit. After military retirement, Roger worked for several years with RGarrison Company in Temecula, CA as a safety specialist for Strategic Risk Management.

Roger was preceded in death by his father, Mike Schechinger, and mother-in-law, Kazuko Matsuda. He is survived by Ichiko and daughter, Tiana of Menifee, CA; by his mother, Judy Patrick of Westphalia; father-in-law Kiyofumi Matsuda, Naha, Okinawa, Japan; brothers: Michael (Karen) Schechinger of Adel, IA; Robert (Carol) Schechinger of Treynor, IA; sister: Bonnie (Tony) Cairney of Westphalia; Susan (Ron) Yockey of Westphalia; and Sherie (Steve) Hollander of Glenwood, IA; sister-in-law Eriko (Hideki) Shimajiri of Tomishiro, Okinawa, Japan; brother-in-law, Yasutaka (Yukiko) Matsuda of Naha, Okinawa, Japan; and uncles, aunts other family members and many friends.

A Committal Service with Full Marine Military Honors was held on March 17, 2020 at the Riverside National Military Cemetery, Riverside, CA. A Memorial service with Marine Military Honors will be held for Roger E. Schechinger in the Westphalia Community Building, Westphalia, IA pending the end of the COVID-19 virus. Notification will be forthcoming.