

SFC Stephen J. Soza U.S. (Ret.) Army (1965 - 2012)

Obituary



SFC Stephen J. Soza, U.S. [Army](#) (Ret.) November, 1965 - August, 2012 Stephen was born in Bakersfield, California to Eleanor Hernandez Soza and Frank Soza. He attended McKinley Elementary School then moved together with his family to Barstow, California. After graduating from Barstow High School, Stephen worked a few jobs, and at the age of twenty-two, he joined the U.S. Army and served with distinction for twenty-three years. Among his many distinguished honors, Stephen was a recipient of two [Bronze Star](#) Medals, the Army Commendation Medal with V device, eight Army Commendation Medals, [Purple Heart](#), eight Army Achievement Medals, and two Joint Meritorious Unit Awards. Stephen served as a combat medic and combat medic trainee. He served in Germany, Korea, Bosnia, Operation Desert Desert Storm (Kuwait), and three deployments to Iraq. As a teenager, Stephen loved his "head-banger," heavy metal music, and loved to ride dirt bikes on the hills of Barstow, California. As an adult, he continued to listen to heavy metal music and traded dirt bikes for golf clubs. Stephen was a member of the Masons. Stephen is survived by his wife, Anglia; his daughter, Shannon Morrissey (Nick); his father, Frank; his siblings: Linda Soza Carbajal; Ruben Soza (Shirley); Patty Araujo (Albert); Frank Soza (Pachita); Anna Gutierrez (Jose); Theresa Acosta (Stanley); many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Eleanor. Services for Stephen are as follows: Monday, September 3rd, viewing at 5:00 p.m., Rosary at 7:00 p.m. at Basham Funeral Home, 3312 Niles St., Bakersfield, Ca. Graveside services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 4th at Hillcrest Memorial Park, 9101 Kern Canyon Rd., Bakersfield, Ca. Stephen's family would like to express thanks to their extended families and friends for all the love and concern they have shown. He was an American hero, a distinguished soldier, a great husband, father, son, brother, uncle and friend. He will be missed by all who knew him. Memorial contributions may be made to the "Bakersfield Homes for Veterans" program. www.bakersfield.com/obits

Published in Bakersfield Californian on September 2, 2012