



## Father Lathrop Palmer Utley

February 2, 1927 - December 26, 2014

Father Lathrop Palmer Utley 87, departed this earthly life on December 26, 2014 at his Forest Pines residence in Columbia, South Carolina. Born in Dover, New Jersey February 2, 1927, he was a son of Romeyn and Dorothy Utley.

Following graduation from high school, Father Utley enlisted in the United States Army as a medic in 1945. After completing his enlistment, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland in 1951. He realized his calling to serve the Lord and attended seminary. He was ordained as an Episcopal priest on December 18, 1954. Following his ordination, he served as a Priest in the Diocese of New Jersey for a number of years. While in the army, Father Utley travelled the world from Viet Nam to Korea to Germany and was stationed in various posts in the Continental United States. In 1968, Father Utley rejoined the army as a chaplain and retired at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in 1985. Following his retirement, Father Utley devoted his life to volunteering at the United States Army Chaplain School in Fort Jackson, because he loved the army, soldiers, and families. Father Utley also faithfully served as a retired Priest Associate at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church for nearly 20 years.

Father Utley married the love of his life, Florence Ellen Hambley on June 14, 1958 in The Diocesan Cathedral in Trenton, New Jersey, and they were happily married for more than 55 years.

In addition to his parents, Romeyn and Dorothy Utley, Father Utley was

preceded in death by his wife Florence and his sister Elizabeth.

Father Utley is survived by his son, Major General Peter D. Utley and his wife Catherine of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland and a host of other family and friends.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Anglican Church of the Epiphany  
2512 N. Beltline Blvd.  
Columbia, SC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Father Lathrop Palmer Utley*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Chaplain Utley was without a doubt one of the best Chaplains I worked for as a CAS! He took a chance on me and I worked everyday to show my appreciation! He was proud of his son, a graduate of the Citadel! His office could have served as a museum of everything Citadel! When I returned to Active Duty as a Chaplain, I was privileged to have him "pin" me. He was a source of wisdom and knowledge and I cherished our time together. He is missed! My prayers are for his family, May God surround them with His Shalom!*



Tom Conner - October 23, 2015 at 08:06 PM



“ *I remember Fr. Utley from St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Columbia, SC when he gave a meditation during Lent several years ago. The meditation was on the incredible suffering of Jesus on the cross but what struck me and I will never forget was that God the Father had to turn his back to Jesus to allow him to die and the utter aloneness Jesus must have experienced at that moment. An aloneness we will never have to face because of Jesus' dying for our sins.*

*I thank God for Fr. Utley and others like him who make a lasting memory like that one to understand the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us and the Father's love.*

Mary Cole - February 11, 2015 at 10:27 AM

JS

“ MG & Mrs. Utley: I came to know Fr. Utley in 1951 when we were both on the staff of an Episcopal summer camp on the Delaware River run by the Diocese of Newark, NJ. It was clear then that "Ut", who was then in seminary, was a special person....warm, caring, invested in people's lives. After taps, when the campers were tucked in and it was staff time around the campfire, it was never, ever dull with his lightening sense of humor regaling us. The summer ended and we all went our ways. Last spring I was searching out Anglican Churches in SC and was stunned to find Fr. Utley's name on a church website. After letters and phone calls, my husband and I went to Elgin to visit him. This was a few months after Mrs. Utley's passing so sadly we never met her. What a joy it was to reunite with this remarkable man after 63 years, still warm, caring and with a razor sharp mind and youthful exuberance despite physical limitations. From the other remembrances people have written I have a sense of what a presence he has been in so many lives. I can only regret we were not privileged to have been a part of that. God has welcomed home one of his warriors.....the reunion that really counts! We offer our condolences at your loss.

Janet Jensen Smith, Advance, NC

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Janet Jensen Smith - January 06, 2015 at 03:06 PM

LP

“ Father Utley was our priest at Church of the Ascension in Gloucester City, NJ in the late 50s and early 60s. I remember his marriage and the birth of Peter - I sang in the church choir for Peter's christening. Father Utley organized a confirmation for quite a large number of children and several adults in 1959 when I was only nine. The group included many of my cousins and classmates. The congregation was bereft when he left for another parish. I have found memories of youth activities and his teaching.  
Lois Etherington Pratt, Ledbury, England.

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Lois Pratt - January 06, 2015 at 09:42 AM

DB

*Thank, you Lois! I loved Father Utley and Florence and Peter! They treated me and my family like we were one. Nancy and I had a great vacation in Florida with them and Peter...once in a lifetime vacation for me...I'll never forget it or them...*

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**Denise Batezel Bower** - June 25, 2016 at 08:52 PM



“ *Father Utley was a gem among gems. He and his late wife always had time to spend with Soldiers and offer kind words of encouragement. He took great pride in his work and ministry; a trait needed and appreciated in this day and age. When I served as Proponent Sergeant major at the Chaplain School, I spent a lot of time at the regimental store talking with him and learning from him about the importance of giving your best. He taught me a lot about transformation as he believed that you needed to change to be relevant. Every time he got "pink" items in the store, he would look for me and put items for me to the side. I loved him and he will be greatly missed.*

*Sincerely and Respectfully,*

*Sergeant Major Pamela A. Wilson*

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**Pamela Wilson Phd** - January 03, 2015 at 06:34 PM

FG

“ *Please give all the family my deepest sympathy and blessing, I will add the Chaplain to my services this Sunday.*

*Rev.Dr. Anthony P. Giunta, TOR, (Retired USAF Chaplain)*

*Holy Cross Mission Church*

*Columbia, SC*

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**Fr. Anthony P. Giunta** - January 03, 2015 at 04:05 PM

EB

“ *Major General and Mrs. Utley:  
Your parents touched so many lives for so many years. I have fond memories, going back to my Basic Training days, of your mother and father as the hosts of the Episcopal Service at Anderson Street Chapel on Fort Jackson. They were always hospitable, full of encouragement, love, warmth and humility. And they were beautiful together. Thereafter I would always look forward to the chance to chat with your father at the schoolhouse during my time there. He could always be counted on for sage advice or a good joke at the very least. Thanks be to God for his life and work. His love for Soldiers was evident in everything he did.  
Pro Deo et Patria,  
MSG Edward A. Baptist  
USARCENT, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait*

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**Edward A. Baptist** - January 03, 2015 at 05:18 AM

EB

“ *He and Flo were wonderful neighbors when we shared a duplex at Fort Jackson. Peter, I remember you from High School days. I send you my deepest condolence and best wishes during these days of grief and reflection.*

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**Ernie Banner** - January 02, 2015 at 03:47 PM

CA

“ I served with Father Utley at the US Army Chaplain Center and School from 1999-2004. Every job I had there was about training chaplains for service at the battalion, brigade or division level. Father Utley was a master mentor on the Chaplain's role as pastor, preacher, liturgist and worship leader--and I drew on his expertise for each class. Thousands of chaplains benefited from his observations, insights and feedback on their ministry knowledge and skills. He had the gift of encouragement and he made people stronger. I loved the sound of his voice, his smile and pat on the shoulder. All of us will miss him, but none of us will ever forget him.-  
-Chaplain (Colonel) Charles Howell, US Army (retired)

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**Chaplain (COL) Charles Howell, US Army** - January 02, 2015 at 03:26 PM

JB

“ I had the privilege of working with Father Utley for nine years at the US Army Chaplain Center and School. He was a brilliant supporter of the Chaplain Museum and an excellent businessman as well as a dedicated chaplain. For some years he would bring a devotion to the Commandant's Monday Staff Meeting. His devotions were always eloquent and timely. His advice was always wise. We have lost an important asset for the Chaplaincy and our history. Chaplain Utley was a blessing and he will be missed personally and professionally. Chaplain (COL Ret.) John W. Brinsfield, Army Chaplain Corps Historian (2001-2011)

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**John Brinsfield** - January 02, 2015 at 01:34 PM

PV

“ Dear Major General and Mrs. Utley: Your father was a wonderful example of what a chaplain was and should be. He was truly a humble man of God. When I was Commandant at the Chaplain Center and School he was always there to assist and encourage. He made the Regimental store a place that we were proud of. He truly served God and Country well. Your mom was a dear saint as well. They will both be missed.

Paul Vicalvi - January 02, 2015 at 01:13 PM

C(

“ Dear MG and Mrs Utley, God is with you. Chaplain Utley was a true servant of God and blessed father to the Army Chaplain Corps. Blessings, Chaplain Craig N. Wiley, US Army (Ret)

Chaplain Craig N. Wiley, US Army (Ret) - January 02, 2015 at 01:08 PM

MJ

“ Father Utley u touch my life and brought so much Love!!! U protected me in many ways i never left your side lam so Bless to spend the last days,hours,min&seconds with u your smile,laughter and honesty i will miss Thank u so much!!! Love your Marie

marie johnson - January 02, 2015 at 11:20 AM

MJ

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marie johnson - January 02, 2015 at 11:20 AM

NH

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family. We shared many hours of "therapy" as we also shared a cup of tea at the Chaplain School. Papa was a wonderful friend and good listener, and we remember him with great fondness.

*Nella & Mike Hobson  
New Hampshire*

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**Nella Hobson** - January 02, 2015 at 11:05 AM

EK

“ I worked with Peter at current ops in the Pentagon and remember thinking then how the apple does not fall far from the tree. Kind-compassionate- caring men. Condolences to those who love him and whom he loved.

*Eric Keller*

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**Eric Kelle** - January 02, 2015 at 04:36 AM

CV

“ I spent 4 years at USACHCS, as it was named then. I called him a chaplain to us chaplains but he served and loved every one there. I appreciate his life and service still. He was a great Godly servant and I thank God for him! Condolences to you, the family. Peter, he spoke of you often and was very proud of you. I recall him telling me you made O6. Now you are a MAJ GENERAL!! Keep going Sir, I hear him cheering for you.

*Ch LTC Carol Vanschenkhof (ret)*

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**Carol Vanschenkhof** - January 01, 2015 at 01:18 PM



“ Many thanks to Fr U and his beloved Flo...they were wonderful friends and surrogate parents to me when I was at Fort Jackson the summer of 2000. I was delighted to share supper with Fr U and Dennington not too terribly long ago. I'm grateful he was in my life.

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**Sarah Shirley** - December 31, 2014 at 06:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Father Lathrop Palmer Utley.



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December 31, 2014 at 06:31 PM



“ May the pain of the passing of "The Friar" by family and friends turn quickly to smiles of peace at the memory that he'd want no mourning at his memory but joy. He always greeted me with "Hey, Paesan!" and a chuckle as he'd sit down in my office and ask "How are you DOING?!" with a wave of his hands, imitating the way I can't speak without gesturing. We'd talk about my love life or lack thereof, laugh and solve the world's political problems before he was off to spread his charm among his many other friends, which was anyone he met. Somewhere in glory the Friar is regaling the angels with stories, with a timbre and a tone to make Shakespeare himself jealous until they all realize he's telling a joke on himself about the time his dentures flew out while he preached. May GOD bless his memory to all who knew him until we hear his stories again at the Feet of JESUS Whose story he told so faithfully and so long.  
See you soon, Paesan.  
- Rev Paul Villano

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**Rev Paul Villano** - December 31, 2014 at 05:22 PM

RV

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See you soon, Paesan.  
- Rev Paul Villano

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Rev Paul Villano - December 31, 2014 at 05:18 PM

MI

“ Dear MG and Mrs. Utey, I am very fortunate to have served with your father when he retired and served as volunteer at the school. He was invaluable member of the Chaplain School contributing and giving of himself daily. He was also a great support of the Episcopal Service at Ft. Jackson. My wife and myself were able to visit with you Dad twice in September of this year and will miss him. Blessings! The Rev. Malcolm Roberts, Chaplain, US Army (Ret.)

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Malcolm Roberts III - December 31, 2014 at 04:19 PM