



## **SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR**

June 11, 1985 - May 27, 2014

Sgt Gene Robert Brandes, Jr, 28, of Oak Ridge, NJ, passed away on Tuesday, May 27, 2014.

He was born on June 11, 1985 in Dover, NJ to Kathryn Sue (nee Maupin) Brandes and Gene Brandes, Sr. and was raised in Jefferson Township along with his two sisters

Sgt Brandes joined the US Army in August 2006 as a Food Operations Specialist (92G). His first duty station was Fort Hood, Texas and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi freedom from August 2007 to November 2008. Sgt Brandes was then assigned to Fort Drum, New York, from February 2010 to 2013. While assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from April 2010 to March 2011. In 2013, Sgt Brandes made a career transition and trained to be an Avenger Crew Member (14S). Upon completing his training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he was assigned to Echo Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, Fort Hood, Texas in June 2013, where he served as a Team Leader. In April 2014, Sgt Brandes transitioned again to be a Patriot Launcher Operator / Maintainer (14T) and was assigned to Delta Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery.

Sgt Brandes' military education includes Combatives Level 1 course, Combat

Life Saver's course and Warrior Leader's Course. His military awards include the Army Commendation Medal 3OLC, Army Achievement Medal 3OLC, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal 1OLC, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with a number 2 device, NATO Medal, and the Army Certificate of Achievement (2).

Sgt Brandes was currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas where he was promoted one year ago to his current rank of Sergeant and was most recently awarded the Military Volunteer of the Year.

Gene Robert will best be remembered for his love and enjoyment of art and music and his devotion to his family, especially to his daughter Lilli.

Gene Robert was predeceased by his dear uncle Chuck Martyn in 2011, his Grandma Thersa Brandes, his Grandpa Brandes, and his cousin Brad Martyn in 2001.

Gene Robert is survived by his cherished daughter Lillian Krimson Sue Brandes; his beloved parents Kathryn Sue and Gene Brandes, Sr; his loving sisters Sarvataa Mae Christie in PA, and Melissa Ann Brandes in Dover, NJ; his aunt Dossy Maupin of Florida; his uncle Steve Maupin of Oak Ridge, his aunt Barbara Brown and her husband Bob of PA; his uncle Walter Brandes and his wife Margaret; his nieces Emily Glenn Ritchie, Skyla Mae Giles, and Sage Marie Williams; his Godparents Lynne and Bob Heiner of Oak Ridge, NJ; and his best friend Doug Komoroski of Oak Ridge.

The family will receive visitors on Sunday, June 8, 2014 from 2-4pm and 7-9pm at the Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home, 187 LaRue Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435 (GPS use 1 Post Place).

The funeral service will take place on Monday, June 9, 2014 at 10:30am at the Milton United Methodist Church, 316 Dover Milton Road, Milton, NJ 07438.

The interment will follow at The Oak Ridge Presbyterian Cemetery, in Oak Ridge, NJ.

In addition to flowers memorial donations may be made in Gene Robert's name to: Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675.

Log onto [www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome](http://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome) tribute wall to personally post your condolences, memories, photos, and videos, as well as obtaining driving directions to the funeral home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltész Funeral Home  
187 La Rue Road  
(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)  
Newfoundland, NJ 07435  
(973) 697-6700  
info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

JUN 8. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltész Funeral Home  
187 La Rue Road  
(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)  
Newfoundland, NJ 07435  
(973) 697-6700  
info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

JUN 9. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Milton United Methodist Church  
316 Dover-Milton Road  
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438  
(973) 697-3194

## Interment

JUN 9. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Oak Ridge Presbyterian Cemetery  
Oak Ridge Road  
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

# Tribute Wall



“ I deployed with brandes in Iraq our first deployment he always had a smile on his face always a kind word even thou we were both scared u always were my backbone. Miss u

ariene pratt - May 25, 2015 at 02:50 PM



“ Remember in Afghanistan when we bought that goat from the Bazaar? Brought it onto FOB Donut, gutted it up and you ended up cooking it up for like 40 of us. Best meal I had in that country. I really miss you brother, shooting the shit between missions or around the fire at night. Not only did you do the work of 3 men in you position but you always had a smile on your face.

Rest in Peace brother  
Until we meet at the pearly gates.  
TBI

Luke Duignan - May 13, 2015 at 12:45 PM



E4 Arthur Pena 171 cav I remember giving him a set of Mexican boxing gloves .he got really excited and talked about making his own comic strip . Damn you were a funny guy brandes.

Arthur Pena - January 24, 2024 at 01:42 AM

JF

“ *I miss you, Brandes.*

*You were my friend and platoon mate. You introduced me to so many great authors and artists. You kept me company during our training stint at Fort Irwin, and every morning during PT at Fort Drum. You had the craziest times, and told the best stories. You could always make me smile. I knew you only as Brandes, not Gene...but I'm thankful even for that. Rock on, dude.*

*~Fontaine (aka Fontainiack)*

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**Jeremy Fontaine** - July 26, 2014 at 01:44 PM

ST

“ *1 file added to the album Gene Robert Photos II*



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**Staci** - June 29, 2014 at 01:35 PM

SH

“ *1 file added to the album Memorial Video Tribute*



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**Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home** - June 11, 2014 at 03:18 PM

KV

“ Kathy Vaughn purchased the Garden Bench - "G one yet not forgotten..." for the family of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR.



Kathy Vaughn - June 11, 2014 at 12:16 PM

Stephanie Vazquez-David

“ You always made me smile laugh and brang joy to me. We had a lot of fun times. That counted. It wasn't for nothing. I remember when you and I got in trouble for drinking at work. And us being the rebellious souls we are dude we didn't care. We stood side by side not concerned about what could possibly happen. We knew we were wrong and we took responsibility. Nobody will ever forget you. I knew your heart was heavy even with all the talks we had and I knew you had a lot on your plate. I just am sorry for never making more of an effort to bringing our friendship back. You my friend were amazing. Say hi to my dad and grandpa for me. Love you bro.

Stephanie Vazquez-David - June 09, 2014 at 05:23 PM

SC

“ Su Chafin sent a virtual gift in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR



Su Chafin - June 09, 2014 at 04:48 PM

SC

Condolences to Sarvataa Christie and the Brandes family. Thank you to your brother and son for his service and or defending our freedom.

Su Chafin - June 09, 2014 at 04:52 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR.*



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June 08, 2014 at 10:27 AM



“ *My Condolences to the Brandes Family. Thank you SGT Brandes for your service you were a friend and fellow Soldier. SFC BREYTS PRAAK (RET)*

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**john breytspraak** - June 08, 2014 at 09:30 AM



*Thanku for ure service. .*

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**Sarvataa Christie** - June 08, 2014 at 09:33 PM



“ *My Condolences to the Brandes Family. Thank You Sgt Brandes Jr for your service!*

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**Walter Endlicher** - June 07, 2014 at 10:29 PM



*Thank u*

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**Sarvataa Christie** - June 08, 2014 at 09:33 PM

WA

“ *Walter lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



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**Walter** - June 07, 2014 at 10:25 PM



*Thanks, walter*

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**Sarvataa Christie** - June 08, 2014 at 09:34 PM

NL

“ *My deepest condolences to your family. Gene's legacy will not be forgotten. He was an extraordinary serviceman and we deeply appreciate his service. May God comfort all of you at this difficult time.*

*Sincerely,*

*Nancy Lawrence, Ruth Coleman and family*

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**Nancy Lawrence** - June 07, 2014 at 12:29 PM



*Thank u*

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**Sarvataa Christie** - June 08, 2014 at 09:34 PM



“ *Guardian Wings Frame was purchased for the family of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR.*



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June 07, 2014 at 12:12 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR.*



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June 07, 2014 at 12:00 PM



“ *Celeste sent a virtual gift in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



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**Celeste** - June 06, 2014 at 10:22 PM



*May God watch over you and your Family. You will be missed by all. Thank you for your service.*

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**Celeste** - June 06, 2014 at 10:33 PM



“ *Jeannie lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



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**Jeannie** - June 06, 2014 at 09:14 PM



*Loved meeting you at Thanksgiving and Army Strong and God Proud Many Blessings you will be missed*

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**Jeannie** - June 06, 2014 at 09:16 PM

LG

“ Love The Fadden Family: Pamela, Thomas, Olivia, & Gwyneth purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR.



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**Love The Fadden Family: Pamela, Thomas, Olivia, & Gwyneth** - June 06, 2014 at 08:29 PM

RE

“ Regina lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR



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**Regina** - June 05, 2014 at 05:57 PM

RE

*Will hold you in our hearts forever.*

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**Regina** - June 05, 2014 at 06:01 PM

RE

“ 13 files added to the album Gene Robert Photos II



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**Regina** - June 05, 2014 at 05:52 PM

RE

“ 52 files added to the album Gene Robert Photos



Regina - June 05, 2014 at 05:44 PM

RE

“ 13 files added to the album Gene Robert Photos



Regina - June 05, 2014 at 05:43 PM

SK

“ I just want to send our condolences to the Brandes family. Haven't seen Kathy in about 20 years. Thank you, Gene Robert, for your service to our country. R.I.P.  
Jim and Sandy Kelly

Sandy Kelly - June 05, 2014 at 01:58 PM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR.



June 05, 2014 at 01:08 PM



“ I remember playing as kids with Gene, and going on the bus together. He was always such a sweet person! My thoughts and prayers go out to your family. May he Rest in Peace <3

jen wanko - June 05, 2014 at 08:00 AM



“ Barbara Brown purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR.



Barbara Brown - June 04, 2014 at 10:14 PM



“ I had the privilege of serving with Gene in Afghanistan a few years ago. He was an great guy to be around. I am honored to have known him and to say he was a friend.

chris moffett - June 04, 2014 at 08:18 PM



Thanks. Sorry for ure loss

Sarvataa Christie - June 05, 2014 at 08:10 AM

EF

“ *Hearts are very heavy at this time for your loss and the admiration for the dedication of Gene serving in the military to help us remain safe. May God Bless you all*



*The Francaviglia Family Edwina/Michelle & DeAnna*

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**Edwina Francaviglia** - June 04, 2014 at 08:14 PM



*Thanks*

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**Sarvataa Christie** - June 05, 2014 at 08:11 AM

 Julie Warren

“ *So very, very sorry Kathy, girls, Steve and all the family. My heart breaks for all of you. Kathy know that my my mom and Steve are just up the street and are always going to be there for you! Much love and many hugs to you. <3*

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**Julie Warren** - June 04, 2014 at 04:38 PM



*Thanks*

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**Sarvataa Christie** - June 05, 2014 at 12:15 AM

TC

“ *Brandes and I served in Afghan together he was a great guy n friend will be missed but never forgotten RIP brother*

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**tom coscia** - June 04, 2014 at 04:23 PM



*Thanks*

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**Sarvataa Christie** - June 05, 2014 at 12:15 AM

KM

“ I had the pleasure of having 5 of my math classes with Gene. Gene was a very nice and very funny person to have class with. I always admired his style and sense of self. We only started talking again recently, and for that I am glad that I got to express my feelings for him before his passing. To friends and family of Gene I pay my condolences, but also assure everyone- This is not "Goodbye" we say to Gene. It is simply- "See you later"- for we will all meet again one day. RIP Sgt. Gene Robert Brandes.



Karen Merring - June 04, 2014 at 08:10 AM

KM

\* express my appreciation for him.

Karen Merring - June 04, 2014 at 08:59 AM



Thanks

Sarvataa Christie - June 05, 2014 at 12:16 AM

SA

“ Saralyn And Steve Arp lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR



Saralyn and Steve Arp - June 04, 2014 at 08:02 AM

SA

*Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family at such a sad time. Kathy, you always had a way of being there for others, now you need to lean on your friends and family for support. Many thanks to Gene Robert for keeping our country safe and for all his accomplishments. May God bless you all. Wishing you all comfort and peace.*  
*Saralyn and Steve Arp*

Saralyn and Steve Arp - June 04, 2014 at 08:09 AM



*Thanks aunt sar*

Sarvataa Christie - June 05, 2014 at 12:16 AM

JU

“ *I know you are in a better place. People say that it is a small army and it actually is. We worked at the same DFAC in Texas and New York. It was my pleasure to know you Gene.*

juan - June 04, 2014 at 01:20 AM



*Txs*

Sarvataa Christie - June 05, 2014 at 12:17 AM

Ellen Mitchell

“ *Ellen Mitchell lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



Ellen Mitchell - June 03, 2014 at 10:44 PM



*Thanks*

Sarvataa Christie - June 05, 2014 at 12:17 AM



“ *In memory to Staff Sgt. Gene Robert Brandes.....I met you when you were a child and watched you grow into a man. My heart is broken.....You were special. Rick*

Richard Yocum - June 03, 2014 at 09:01 PM



*Thanks Rick*

Sarvataa Christie - June 05, 2014 at 12:17 AM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Ann Brown - June 03, 2014 at 07:30 PM



*Good seeing u today*

Sarvataa Christie - June 05, 2014 at 12:18 AM



“ *Matt Frye lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



Matt Frye - June 03, 2014 at 06:51 PM

 Cody  
Tesar

“ You were a great soldier. I'm glad I had the honor of serving with you. R.I.P. Brandes.

Cody Tesar - June 03, 2014 at 02:00 PM

SH

“ Our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Brandes and her family during this horrible time. Mrs. Brandes would often talk about Gene Robert to me when I pick up my daughter. Thank you for your service Gene Robert and may you rest in peace.  
Sincerely,  
The Haakmeester Family

Shannon Haakmeester - June 03, 2014 at 10:12 AM

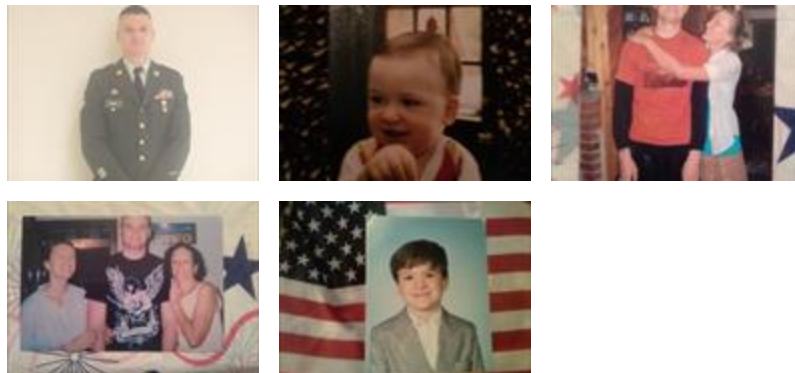


“ To the most wonderful son a mother could hope for, I love you and will always miss you.  
Mom.

Sarvataa Christie - June 02, 2014 at 09:06 PM



“ 7 files added to the album New Album Name



Sarvataa Christie - June 02, 2014 at 08:03 PM

PG

“ *P. Graham lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



p. graham - June 02, 2014 at 07:51 PM



*Thank you!*

Sarvataa Christie - June 02, 2014 at 07:58 PM

CG

“ *Cyndee Gischel lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



Cyndee Gischel - June 02, 2014 at 06:10 PM



*Thanks Cyndee. Xo*

Sarvataa Christie - June 02, 2014 at 07:29 PM

MA

“ *Our deepest sympathy and prayers being sent to our dearest friend Mrs Kathy Brandes and get family at this difficult time, I had the honor and privilege of meeting Gene Robert and seeing first had the amazing bond that he shared with his mom , Thank you Gene Robert for your service to our country and may you rest in peace, Respectively the Abdinoor family*

Michelle Abdinoor - June 02, 2014 at 11:01 AM



*Thank you.*

**Sarvataa Christie** - June 02, 2014 at 03:57 PM

DW

“ *Deborah Woodward lit a candle in memory of  
SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



**Deborah Woodward** - June 02, 2014 at 05:37 AM



*Thank you, Shivani*

**Sarvataa Christie** - June 02, 2014 at 03:57 PM

EO

“ *I am so saddened to learn of the loss of Gene Robert! I so enjoyed having him in my First grade Class many years ago! He was always a sweet, loving and precious little boy! It was a pleasure to have him in class! Sending loving thoughts and heartfelt prayers to his entire family! With my deepest sympathy, Ellen Olivieri ??????*

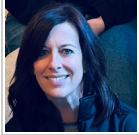


**Ellen Olivieri** - June 01, 2014 at 07:15 PM



*Thank you.*

**Sarvataa Christie** - June 02, 2014 at 03:58 PM



“ I know that Gene is at peace in God's hands where he will look over his family with love, always. I know this is such a hard time for his family and friends, but what must be remembered is the life and love Gene gave to all who knew him. I remember all of the wonderful stories of Gene's bravery and compassion his mother shared with such love and hope; she adored her son. And I remember the smiles he brought to so many people's faces, including mine. May all of us who were lucky to know him never forget the special memories of this remarkable man.

Kirsten Verville-Smith - June 01, 2014 at 04:55 PM



Thank you.

Sarvataa Christie - June 02, 2014 at 04:00 PM



“ Gene has been a friend of mine since Country Day School when we were kids. We used to go over to each other's houses all the time and were best friends for many years. Unfortunately as we grew older and time went on we drifted apart and went our separate ways, but I will never forget the times we had together. You will be missed by many Gene Robert. No one will ever forget you or your kind heart.

John Jorgensen - June 01, 2014 at 09:34 AM



Thank you.

Sarvataa Christie - June 02, 2014 at 04:00 PM



“ *Nathalie Mermet-Grandfille lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



Nathalie Mermet-Grandfille - June 01, 2014 at 07:32 AM



*Thank you, Sweet Shiva sister.*

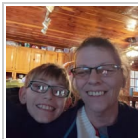
Sarvataa Christie - June 02, 2014 at 04:01 PM



“ *Sarvataa Christie lit a candle in memory of SGT GENE ROBERT BRANDES JR*



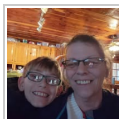
Sarvataa Christie - June 01, 2014 at 07:31 AM



“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Ann Brown - May 31, 2014 at 05:31 PM



*Gene Robert we Love you and miss you immensely, find us all a good fishin' hole up in heaven.*

Ann Brown - June 01, 2014 at 04:04 PM



*Thank you sweetie.*

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**Sarvataa Christie** - June 02, 2014 at 04:01 PM