

Col Lina Susan Audibert Ruppel

16 September 1944 – 15 August 2009

Lina Susan Audibert Ruppel, RNC, NP, MSN, was born at home on September 16, 1944, in Moretown, Vermont. She ended her earthly journey on August 15, 2009, after a valiant battle with cancer.



After graduation from Johnson High School, Johnson, Vermont, Lina earned a Diploma in Nursing (1965) from Jeanne Mance School of Nursing, Burlington, Vermont. She entered the USAF as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1965, and served as a staff nurse for 3 years. Lina left active duty in 1968, entered private practice, and joined the California National Guard in 1972 as a staff nurse in the 129th TAC Dispensary, Hayward California. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from California State University, Sacramento, in 1977, and graduated from the USAF Obstetrics and Gynecology Nurse Practitioner Program in 1981. In 1989, she received a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, and received her Flight Nurse wings after graduation from USAF School of Aerospace Medicine Flight Nurse course in 1991. She was promoted to the rank of Colonel in June, 1990, becoming the first woman to hold that rank in the California Air National Guard. Col Ruppel served as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Command Nurse, Air Mobility Command, and retired in 1995 after serving as the Clinic Commander, 129th Rescue Wing. Upon her retirement, Lina was promoted to California State Brigadier General. She served as Nurse Manager, OB/GYN, Family Planning Department, Stanislaus County, for many years, and retired in 2007 as the Assistant Director, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency.



Lina was preceded in death by her parents, Edgar and Cecile Audibert; and her brother, Ernest Audibert. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, John L. Ruppel, Jr.; sisters, Alice Maguder, Rita Lehouillier (John), and Helen Lacey (Bud); brother, Louis Audibert (Linda); sister-in-law, Eleanor Audibert; in-laws, David and Carol Ann Allen, and Michael and Donna Ruppel; fourteen nieces and nephews; numerous cousins, grand nieces and nephews; five god-children; and many friends.

Funeral Mass and memorial services will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 11, 2009, St. Joseph's Catholic Church (www.stjmod.com), 1813 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355-2999, 1-209-551-4973. Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Funeral Mass and memorial services will also be held 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 16, 2009 (Lina's 65th birthday) at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, St. John Street, Johnson, Vermont 05656, 1-802-888-3318. Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Interment will be at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl Crater), Hawaii.

In celebration of Lina's life, donations to your local chapter of the American Cancer Society are suggested.