

Daughters Melissa Karlovich, Amanda Stagg,  
and Son Mike Stagg, Jr. offer this poem  
in memory of their father.

## I'M FREE

DON'T GRIEVE FOR ME,

NOW I'M FREE.

I TOOK HIS HAND, WHEN I HEARD HIM CALL

I TURNED MY BACK AND LEFT IT ALL.

IF MY PARTING HAS LEFT A VOID

THEN FILL IT WITH REMEMBERED JOY.

MY LIFE'S BEEN FULL, I SAVORED MUCH,

GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD TIMES, A LOVED ONE'S TOUCH.

A FRIENDSHIP SHARED – A LAUGH, A KISS

AH YES, THESE THINGS I TOO WILL MISS.

PERHAPS MY TIME SEEMED ALL TOO BRIEF

DON'T LENGTHEN IT NOW WITH UNDUE GRIEF.

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS AND SHARE WITH ME;

GOD WANTED ME NOW—

HE SET ME FREE !

## MEMORIAL SERVICE 04 SEPTEMBER 2010



AMERICAN LEGION  
LOVE FIELD POST/SQUADRON 453  
DALLAS, TEXAS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We welcome you to today's memorial service honoring our departed Father, Friend, Veteran, Legionnaire, Son of the American Legion, comrade.

This information comes to us from Detachment Americanism Chairman Joel Franklin...

He tells us, "This is what I have on Mike. It came from him while I was trying to write a resolution endorsing him for Detachment Commander for 2011-2012."

### MILITARY

Spent about 22 years in service to the United States Navy

- Joined U.S. Navy under the "delayed entry" program, 1968, while in college
- Went through Basic, O.C.S. (Officer Candidate School), and flight school Jun 1971 - Dec 1972
- Commissioned as an Ensign, Jan 6, 1972
- Promoted to Lt. Jg., Dec 1972
- Promoted to Lt., Dec 1974
- Promoted to Lt. Commander Dec 1976, and went to active reserve
- Promoted to Commander, Mar 1983 (sometime in his reserve years, was in Command of a Marine Corps wing at N.A.S. Dallas)
- Resigned his commission, retired Dec 1993

### AMERICAN LEGION

Mike joined the American Legion in 1997  
Love Field Post No. 453, Dallas, Texas

- Post 2nd Vice-Commander .....1999-03
- Post Executive Committee .....2003-05
- Post Chaplain .....2007-09

Mike was eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion through the service of his father who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1939-1947

- Joined Squadron No. 453..... 1998
- Squadron Commander .....2002-03
- Squadron Chaplain.....2004 to his passing
- 5th District Chaplain.....2003-04, 2006-10
- 1st Division Chaplain .....2005-06

### DETACHMENT OF TEXAS

- Assistant Adjutant .....2003-04
- Detachment Chaplain .....2004-10

At the time of his passing, Mike was serving as Detachment Chaplain, Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Texas, 1st Division Vice Commander (voted in at their Division Spring Convention), 5th District Asst. Chaplain, and Post No. 453 Chaplain.

As an aside, Mike was a member of "The Republican Senatorial Inner Circle."