CW5 George Q. Munson III

Clan William

Longtime Military Leader Retires



CW5 George Munson last served as the Command Chief Warrant Officer, Joint Force Headquarters, in the New Hampshire National Guard. He retired in March of 2025 after a 43-year career. He is the son of George Q. Munson, Jr. and the late Judith Yates.

"My family has a history of military service. My grandfather and father both served in the Army along with uncles on both sides of the family," Munson said.

"My parents did encourage me to serve throughout my formative years but not to pressure me. My mother was the reason I ended up in Army Aviation. I was rudderless after college and my mother saw an ad in the New York Times that showed the Army was recruiting warrant officer Army helicopter pilots. So, I went to a recruiter and 2 years later was headed off to Basic Training. It was a long process, but I was committed," Munson explained.

A third-generation native of Sea Cliff, Long Island, New York, he enlisted in 1988 under the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program. The Army utilizes warrant officers as specialty officers who concentrate their work in one specific area to become masters of the craft. They are highly trusted and respected as technical and tactical experts often involving managing or advising on specific equipment or systems. There are 17 warrant officer branches in the Army, aviation being one. Most Army pilots are warrant officers.

After completing Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training as the Distinguised Honor Graduate, Munson completed a tour in Korea, where he met his future wife, Ginger, who was also a UH-1 pilot. She graduated from Santa Clara University through the Army ROTC program where she was the distinguished George C. Marshal Award recipient.

After another tour, this time in the US, he deployed for Oeprations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He then left active duty and joined the New Hampshire National Guard. He served as pilot, instructor pilot, and instrument flight examiner for the 1159th Medical Company, Air Ambulance.

He then got his fixed wing qualification and joined the Operationsl Support Airlift Activity, Detachment 18 as a C-12 pilot and Instructor Pilot (2007-2018). Mr. Munson also served as the State Aviation Standarization Officer from 2015-2019.

In 2019, he assumed duties as the Command Chief Warrant Officer, Army National Guard. In this role, he served on the Adjustant General's Staff as the state's senior ranking warrant officer and oversaw all aspects of administration of all warrant officers in New Hampshire.

Not many warrant officers make it to the highest grade, CW5. They are considered a unicorn within the ranks. Those who hold the rank are considered the ultimate technical experts in their field. Munson counts himself privileged to have attained the rank.

During his career, Mr. Munson was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (third award), Air Medal (fourth award), Army Commendation Medal (third award), Meritorious Unit Citation (second award), Master Aviator Bades, and the Air Assault Badge. He is the recipient of the Army Aviation Association of America Order of Saint Michael as well as the New Hampshire Congressional Rescue Award. He has four combat deployments and has logged over 7,000 flight hours including over 1,400 combat flight hours.

When asked to what he attributed his incredible success, Munson said, "I attribute my success to a couple of things. First, I am a Christian and I believe God gave me a purpose with the talents I have. I became very good as a pilot, and I really liked it. There is a tremendous amount of work required to perform at a high level, it is not all glory and fun, but I took to it and thrived. I found purpose and honor in what I was doing. I also know that my wife Ginger who was also an Army helicopter pilot provided the support and energy for me to keep going."

He added, "My greatest pleasures serving in the Army are hard to summarize as I liked so much about the career. I will say that flying is a passion and that provided my greatest pleasure and motivation. That allowed me to serve a higher purpose, something greater than myself. I liked being part of a team with mutual respect, that needed all its members to be skilled and dedicated to the task at hand,"

He added, “And I would say this was ultimately my greatest pleasure. Whether it was flying MEDEVAC in combat moving wounded from the battlefield, or rescuing people in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, or flying support missions in an airplane in Iraq or Afghanistan or instructing pilots on the regulations and standards of flying, to trusting others to perform their jobs with honor, duty and respect. We served and defended the people of the United States and were part of defending the freedoms of people around the world. This is something I will always be proud of and where I found my greatest pleasure.”

Munson’s combat deployments kept him apart from his family. Ginger kept things together. She also became a powerful advocate for veterans, service members, and their families. She is a writer, military and family liaison, host of a veteran-focused radio show, and is a New Hampshire State Care Coordinator. Mr. Munson considers her the foundation of the family as well.

Munson recalls, “I had many great mentors in my career, but my greatest support came from my wife Ginger and my family. Without their support and buy in, I would have quit before 20 years. I was constantly travelling, training or deployed over the 37 years. Ginger spent over 39 months alone with four children during 3 of my deployments. She is resilient, strong and loving and I owe her the credit, hands down. My children also supported my work and sacrificed life events many times.”

The couple have four children, all now grown. Grant lives in Newport, Rhode Island and enjoys hunting and fishing. Grace lives in Boston and works for a bio-medical staffing company. Burdick lives in Manchester, New Hampshire and is an Infantryman with the C/3-172nd Infantry. Margaret resides in Seattle and works every year in Alaska in the commercial salmon fishing industry.

The Thomas Munson Foundation salutes the George and Ginger Munson family on their achievements to date and wish them great luck in the future!



Left: Ginger, George, Margaret, Grant, Grace, and Burdick

Below: Last Flight, Burdick, George, and Ginger





Left: Burdick, George, Grace, Ginger, Margaret, and Grant

Published 01 Jun 2025