

# Master Warrant Officer Earle “Griz” Eastman, CD (Retired)

Earle Eastman was born in 1958 and grew up in St Stephens, New Brunswick. Earle joined the Cadets in 1969, while in school, serving as a cadet until he aged out. He then joined the Cadet Instructor Cadre in 1976. Earle transitioned into the CF Regular Force in 1977, training as a Weapon Technician. He served with distinction for the next 33 years, most of his postings with Field Units. Earle honed his skills both as a technician and as a soldier. He rose to the rank of Master Warrant Officer before his retirement in 2010 as the Equipment Technical Quartermaster Sergeant (ETQMS) of 1st Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1 PPCLI).

His postings included CFB Gagetown Base Maintenance, 2nd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment (2 RCR), CFB Penhold, Canadian Forces School of Aerospace and Ordnance Engineering (CFSAOE), 1 Service Battalion (Calgary), 2 PPCLI, Canadian Forces School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (CFSEME), Lord Strathcona Horse (Royal Canadian) (LDSH(RC)) and 1 PPCLI (in both Calgary and Edmonton). His excellent technical skills were highly recognized, hence his positions to RCEME instructional duties at CFSAOE and again to CFSEME later in his career.

Earle deployed on many international operations: twice to Cyprus, first in 1984 and again in 1990; Croatia in 1994; in Eritrea in 2000; Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2003; Afghanistan in 2006 and, during his time with field units, he completed five deployments with Allied Command Europe Mobile Forces (Land) (AMF (L)) in Norway.

He strived to be a model for those who worked around him; never assigning a task that he himself would not do, as demonstrated in Afghanistan through his participation on tactical operations such as patrols or accompanying RCEME detachments. He was known as a fair, honest and direct leader, much respected by all rank levels, earning his nickname “Grizzly or Griz”.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and technical skill in Afghanistan, with 1 PPCLI, he earned a Chief of Defence Staff Commendation, which was awarded on the 2 November 2008.

*Citation: Master Warrant Officer Earle Roy Eastman, CD – for leadership and exceptional technical skill as the Electrical and Technical Quartermaster Sergeant, Joint Task Force Afghanistan, January to August 2006.*

He was also awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, Canada 125 Medal, Special Service Medal with NATO bar, Canadian Peacekeeping Medal, Canadian Forces Decoration with bars, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal and most recently, the King's Coronation Medal.

Earle was proud to be RCEME and participated in as many events as possible including RCEME Curling Bonspiels, RCEME Golf Tournaments, even playing hockey in his younger days. In his spare time, when he had any, Earle liked to hunt, fish, golf, curl and coach minor league hockey, but his passion was riding motorcycles.

He continued to serve his fellow Canadians and Veterans after his retirement from the regular force in 2010. Upon retirement he immediately enrolled in the Primary Reserves, with 32 Service Battalion, where he served until 2010, when he finally retired from uniformed service. He then signed a contract with a Defence staffing contractor to lead a Maintenance Workshop in Gagetown until 2012.

Along with his wife, Charlie, he joined the Canadian Army Veterans (CAV) Motorcycle Units and started the local unit, Thiepval, in Charlotte County, New Brunswick. He would later become the National President, a position he held for four years. He has ridden across Canada, from Newfoundland to British Columbia, with the CAV several times, supporting many veterans' activities all while trying to stay dry and keep the bugs from nesting in his beard. Some of his best trips were when he could take each of his grandchildren on their own special ride with Grampy. Earle's grandchildren meant the world to him.

Earle's dedication to helping veterans and their families was reflected in his community work and involvement in the Legion. Earle served and chaired on many charitable boards and was the Past President of the local St. Croix, New Brunswick Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Provincial District Commander (oversees all the Legion Branches in Charlotte County, New Brunswick), leading to his subsequent election to Second Vice President of New Brunswick Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, with 39 years Legion membership.

On 21 October 2017, Earle was Knighted into the Order of St. George, a chivalric order whose mission is "to better the health and wellbeing of members of the Canadian Armed Forces, veterans and their families and to support the Cadets and Junior Canadian Ranger programs". Four years later, on 21 May 2021, Earle was promoted to Knight Commander of the Order of St. George.

He ran for and succeeded in becoming a councillor, representing Ward 3 in the municipal district of St. Stephen, New Brunswick. He was against the many ways that governments were fiscally irresponsible with taxpayers' money and hoped that applying common sense and positive visionary planning that his hometown could prosper and grow. He had planned on running for Mayor of St Stephen before his untimely death.

Griz as he was affectionately called by his friends, was a strong yet somewhat humble man. He believed in hard work, fair play, fiscal responsibility, and positive work ethos.