



Donald Butler

January 15, 2010

Obituary of Col. Donald Butler

Colonel Donald R. Butler, 79, of Lady Lake, FL died Friday, January 15, 2010. He was born in Louisville, KY. He was a member of Crescent Hill United Methodist Church, Louisville, KY. He was a 1953 Graduate of University of Kentucky, Lexington and a member of TKE Fraternity.

He was a retired Colonel with the US Air Force with 30 years of service. He was the Assistant Flight Director for the Gemini Space Program; a B-47 Bombardier/Navigator and a KC 97 Tanker Navigator in the 509th Bomb Wing; a Commander in SAC-AD (Strategic Air Command); Assistant Flight Director for the Manned Orbiting Laboratory with NASA; Minute Man Missile Squadron Commander, SAC Inspector General Team as a Commander; Commander of the 1020 Computer Services Squadron (Space Command) at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, CO.

He was a volunteer Ramrod with Pike's Peak or Bust Rodeo, Colorado Springs, CO. He was an active member of the Civitan Club, Active RNC member and worked as a volunteer for retired congressman Joel Hefley, CO. He enjoyed traveling especially cruising, the arts, music, and horseshows. He

volunteered with the Boy Scouts and Little League and was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and special times with his wife, children and grandchildren.

He is survived by wife, Ellinda Butler, Lady Lake, FL; 2 sons: Brent Butler (Shirley) Omaha, NE and Brian Butler (Louann), Loma Linda, CA; daughter, Ann-Margaret Morgan, Wills Point, TX; grand daughter, Laura Vance, Omaha, NE; great grand daughter, Lindsay Vance, Omaha, NE.

Funeral Services will be Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 11:00 AM at Beyers Funeral Home Chapel, Lady Lake, FL. Interment will be at 1:00p.m. with Full Military Honors at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Community United Methodist Church, Fruitland Park, 309 College Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731-3103; or The Villages Hospice, 601 Bella Casa, The Villages, FL 32162.

Services

Funeral Services will be Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 11:00 AM at Beyers Funeral Home Chapel, Lady Lake, FL.

Interment

Interment will be at 1:00p.m. following the service, with Full Military Honors, at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

Tribute Wall

TH

“ My father was the First Sergeant at the 1020 under Col Butler. I still remember my father introducing me to him on one of the many times I visited my father at work. I still remember a couple "magic tricks" Col Butler showed me that day. When Col Butler retired my father told me it looked like it was a good time for him to retire also since he wasn't going to find a better Commanding Officer to work for.

After my dad retired we both went to go visit Col Butler at his home and my father kept referring to him as "sir", even though they had both been out of the service. When we departed I asked my dad why he still called him "sir" and he said "he will always be Col Butler to me and my Commanding Officer." I still tell that story today to people.

I spent 27 years in the Navy and I truly understand what my father meant. You work for and with a lot of people in the service and sometimes you are lucky enough to have some of them to have a truly positive impact on your life. I believe he had that impact on my father and I'm sure so many service personnel before. As we say in the Navy "rest your oars, we have the watch."

Tony Hutton - November 27, 2024 at 07:21 AM

GT

“ COLONEL BUTLER WAS MY SQUADRON COMMANDER AT WHITEMAN AFB (508TH SMS) AND I ALWAYS FOUND HIM COMPASSIONATE, UNDERSTANDING AND INSPIRATIONAL. HE WAS A GREAT ROLE MODEL AND HAD A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON MY CAREER.

GERALD R TAFT - January 12, 2022 at 05:28 PM

JT

“ Don was extremely successful @ Whiteman at maintaining a balance of senior officer and big brother/coach. He was very professional while fun to be with socially. Don and Linda are part of the fond memories that Debbie and I hold of those days in the "glory years" of Whitemen. J.B. Toland

J.B. Toland - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LU

“ I served with Don at Whiteman AFB, MO during the late sixties and I remember him as the Squadron Commander of the 508Th MMS. Don was a pleasure to serve with and to know. He was always upbeat and pleasant to be around. Don was not one to wear his rank, and always had a kind word for his troops. As a younger officer, he was an inspiration to me and many others. He will be missed from the ranks of the missileers.

Larry Fuller, Lt.Col, USAFR - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ We were very distressed at the news of Don's passing. We remember him fondly and all of the good times we had together. Don was a dedicated patriot, outstanding officer, and good friend. All of us are better because he passed our way. Be assured you have our sincerest sympathy and are in our prayers. Love, Bill and Avil

Bill & Avil Brooksher - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EI

“ Linda and family, please accept my deepest condolences. He was a wonderful man. My family and myself send you our thoughts and prayers. enis Ingold

Enis P Ingold - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ A great man who I had the honor of serving at WAFB and he headed a Task Force to VAFB where we launched 3 ICBMs. Later, we invited him to dinner on Sunday night after Olympic Arena. Monday morning he started the 4315th CCTS IG inspection with a call to me, nothing but to say about him. He shall be missed.

Dave Rest, Major USAF Ret - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Ann, I'm so sorry for your loss. I pray for you, your mom and brothers to be wrapped in God's strength during this time. Remember death leaves a heartache no one can heal, but love leaves a memory no one can steal. I know you have lots of great memories and in time you will find peace in those special moments you shared. Take care of yourself and your mom. Love ya, Cindy

Cindy Howell - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I am a co-worker of Ann's and wish to send my prayers to you and your family.

Kay Squires - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Linda - Please accept our sincere sympathy at this sad time. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. With deepest sympathy,
Theresa and Bill

Theresa and Bill Ryan - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ It is with great sadness that Suzanne and I received notification of Col Butler's passing. Our time with Col Butler in the 508th SMS at Whiteman AFB, Mo, was one of the best times in our life. When I was in missile school he helped move Suzanne and a very young infant daughter into base quarters. He always unselfishly looked out for the welfare of all his men and their families. My Air Force career success owes a lot to the guidance of Col. Butler. Our prayers are with Elinda and the family.

Jim & Suzanne Horton - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MU

“ A great leader. Our best wishes to the family on his passing.

Mike Barr, Col USAFR - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Linda, We fondly remember you and Don from our visits at Dick & Joan's home in Seagrove Beach with smiles on our faces. Even though we have not seen each other recently, we have "kept in touch" with Joan. We remember Don as a fine, caring man of character, and we know he will be missed greatly. Our hearts and prayers are with you and your family. Jeannette and Eddy Smith

Jeannette & Eddy Smith - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Dear Linda and Family. Our deepest sympathy to all of you on the loss of Don. We recall those very special times we spent together here in Colorado Springs and at Whiteman. We will sorely miss him. Our thoughts and prayers will always be with you.

Peggy/Bill Boecking - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Dear Linda and family, We were saddened to learn of your loss. Don was a patriot and a wonderful commander when we were stationed together at Whiteman AFB back in the early 1970's. We remember those very formative years and Don's and your encouragement of social activities to boost morale and draw the squadron team together. His leadership contributed to some superb performances at Olympic Arena and much much more. He touched many young officers through his example and values. He was the first squadron commander I felt I really got to know and admire. All that came before were distant, but Don was always accessible and available to talk, counsel, encourage, and motivate. You and the family often had to wait so he could be available after a long missile alert to listen and encourage. We are proud to have worked with you both in those wonderful years of very formative memories. God bless you all! Phyllis & Jim Cox (Col USAF Ret, Colorado Springs)

Jim & Phyllis Cox - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ To Ann and Family, May you gain comfort at this time by celebrating the wonderful life your father/ husband/brother had. He left a legacy of wonderful memories for all of you. I send a message to the Great Spirit for your comfort.

Barry and Annie Kephart - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ Ann and family, we were so sorry to hear of your father's passing. We pray God give you peace and understanding during this difficult time. Please let us know if you need anything.

Terri Bowen & Pete - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Dear Linda, With our sympathy in your loss, our thoughts and prayers will be with you in the days and weeks ahead. God Bless, Gladys and Jack

Jack and Gladys Korner - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Linda and Ann, My thoughts and prayers are with you. I am so sorry I can not be there...but you know I am thinking of you day and night. I love you, Lainey

Lainey - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ The loss of a Dear Friend diminishes all of us. Don was such a good friend, that it is hard to accept the loss. Our hearts and prayers are with his famliy, also wonderful friends.

John and Marsha - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Ann and Ma, I'm so very sorry to hear of this. Just know I'm thinking of you and never more than a phone call away! Love to you both. L

Laurie, John and the girls - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Dear Linda, I read about Don's death in the Louisville paper. I want to offer my condolences for Don and your brother also. Don certainly had an outstanding military career. I know you are proud of him. Since I had lost contact with you, It was nice to read about Don and your family. Sorry it had to be in the obituary. Don's birthday was the day before my husband's birthday. I am happily remarried. Also, your sons have the same name as our grandsons. My husbands name is also Don. I would love to hear from you when you are up to it. My email is on the note. My home address is 2402 Glenview Ave. Louisville, Ky 40222. Sincerely, Pat McCoy Brown I

Patricia McCoy Brown - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Donald Butler*

October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM