



Col. Clarence Y. Wilkerson, Jr. USAF, Retired

January 18, 1931 - December 27, 2018

Clarence Young Wilkerson, Jr., 87, passed on Thursday, December 27, 2018.

Clarence was born January 18, 1931 in Chase City, VA to Clarence Young, Sr. and Hazel Wilkerson. He grew up in both Chase City and Bristol, TN. He graduated from Tennessee High School in 1949.

Clarence married Bobbie Lou Shoun and had two children, David Lee and Golda Carol. In 1952 he joined the Air Force and became a flight navigator. Later, he shifted his military career to financial services.

He later married Martha Draper and had two children, Debra Leigh and John Richard. His military service took his family around the world with stops in Japan and England. He served for a year in Vietnam, leaving just as the Tet Offensive began. He served as the Comptroller of the U.S. Air Force Academy and moved to Texas to serve as Chief of Staff of AAFES Worldwide, the Army Air Force Exchange Service. Clarence retired from the Air Force in 1984.

He became a certified financial planner and served as the Chief Financial Officer of the Visiting Nurse Association of North Texas in Dallas for nearly six years.

Clarence married Becky on July 19, 1991. They had 27 years of happiness before Parkinson's took its toll on him. Clarence and Becky retired in 1996 and moved back to Bristol to be close to his mother Hazel. They spent a great deal of time at Becky's home in Red House, MD and traveling the country to visit their blended family. They traveled to Europe many times and traversed Cape Horn in South America while on an extended cruise. Clarence enjoyed reading, gardening, and spending time with family and friends.

Clarence was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves behind his wife Becky; sister, Geri and her three children, Sharon, Steve and Joe Weller; his children, David (Sheila) of Durham, NC, Carol of Cheltenham, England, Debbie of Oakland, CA, and John (JoAnn) of

Morehead City, NC; eight grandchildren, Shawn Wilkerson, Nathan Johnson, Nicolas Wilkerson, Brian Wilkerson, Timothy (Ali) Wilkerson, Julie Wilkerson, Kelly Dannucci, and Zachary (Chelsea) Wilkerson. He also will be remembered fondly by his three step-children, Cindy (Jerry) Jensen of Mansfield, TX, Chuck Fleming of Aurora, CO, and Matt (Inetha) Fleming of Beaverton, OR; and five step-grandchildren, Gavin, Delaney, Ben, Brenna and Matt.

Clarence will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery later in 2019.

Special thanks for the support of family and friends, Amedisys Hospice staff and Pasha Bell, Home Helpers.

You are invited to make a gift in his honor to a charity of your choice.

Cemetery

Heritage Chapel of Memories

839 Bluff City Highway

Bristol, TN, 37620

Events

NOV

23

Celebration of Life

03:00PM

Heritage Chapel of Memories

839 Bluff City Highway, Bristol, TN, US, 37620

Comments



“ Sorry it has taken me so long to find out about his passing. I knew him as Major Wilkerson and our Comptroller at RAF Station Wethersfield (1968-1970). I was then Captain Schmitt, the Base Budget Officer, who monthly briefed the "Status of Funds" for the base to the Wing Commander on down. I never got to THANK Colonel Wilkerson for writing my nomination for the USAF Commendation Medal for my work as Base Budget Officer. In fact it is the ONLY medal I ever received for six years and four months of Active Duty, followed by fifteen years in the California Air National Guard.

Fine, fine gentleman!

Neel G, Schmitt, Lieutenant Colonel USAF (Retired)

Neel Schmitt - April 24, 2021 at 09:17 PM



“ Remembering his smile and humor and kind demeanor. Wilkie was able to make one feel they talked daily even when you had not seen him for years! He just had a way! Blessings and peace to his family.

Nancy Baraks - January 04, 2019 at 04:55 AM



“ Uncle Wilkie always had a twinkle in his eye, love in his heart, wisdom in his words and kindness in his presence. Such a precious soul that we all will miss dearly. We know you will be Aunt Becky's guardian angel. You will be missed but your memory will last forever.

Much love,
Karen Engel and family

Karen Engel - January 03, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ Rest in Peace to one of the most caring, kindest men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. The love he shared with Aunt Becky is something I can only hope to share with someone one day. Heaven gained a beautiful angel. Love you Aunt Becky, thinking about you always

Morgan Engel - January 03, 2019 at 05:39 PM



“ I am so very sorry to hear of Clarence's passing. My family lived across the street from Mrs. Shoaf and Mrs. Wilkerson. I remember when Clarence would come visit. My sincerest condolences



J W DENNISON - December 31, 2018 at 03:33 PM