



Retired Air Force Col. Floyd Douglas Wood Sr.

July 30, 1931 - April 3, 2021

Our precious father, Floyd Douglas Wood, Sr, Colonel (Ret.) U.S. Air Force of Hideaway, Texas died peacefully in his sleep in the early morning hours of April 3, 2021. He was born in Corinth, MS on July 30, 1931 to Virgie Bell McIntyre Wood and Floyd Ocie Wood who preceded him in death. At an early age Dad moved to a Dallas with his parents and two younger brothers where he graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School before attending and graduating from North Texas State University. While there he met the love of his life, Ester Laverne Brown, and they married during his senior year on April 4th, 1955. After graduation he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the USAF and subsequently completed pilot training.

He proudly served his country in numerous stations around the world for over 27 years. Among his assignments were Chief of Flight Safety, 12th Air Force at Bergstrom AFB, Squadron Commander of the 774th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Dyess AFB, Director of Operations at Scott AFB, and Head of ROTC at the University of Arkansas. During the Vietnam campaign he flew 277 combat hours and 123 missions in the C130 Hercules. His military honors include the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Oak Cluster, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Readiness Medal, the National Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with 2 Service Stars, the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Device, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Legion of Merit Award.

While Dad's Air Force career brought him many awards he proudly wore on his chest, it was the heart beneath that mostly defined him. He loved his family more than anything. From his parents and brothers, wife and children, his love was ferocious and unwavering. But the title of Pop was the role he cherished the most! Lolli and Pop, what a team! They were the dynamic duo. She was the master gardener, he was her "under-gardener". She cooked the meals, he cleaned up the kitchen, unless it was Sunday breakfast. That was his duty! Belgium waffles and tons of bacon. We all loved his Sunday breakfasts. And he loved Christmas, even though he started his famous annual Christmas letter with Bah

Humbug. He was a kid at heart and Christmas is for kids, and he made it special for all of us.

When Dad retired from the Air Force in 1982, he was 50 years old and his life as Pop had just begun. He loved everything about being a granddad. The once stern father became a fun-loving granddad. Some of his most enjoyable moments were attending sporting events, dance recitals and school events that his grandchildren were involved in. He was so proud of each and every one of them!

Retirement gave Pop unlimited time to tackle all of his projects. Without fail, he could be found in the back yard either building bridges or walks. No pile of broken concrete was safe in East Texas! He did love to mentor and was one of the most sought after substitute teachers in Tyler. His students loved hearing his stories, but they never messed around when the Colonel was teaching. He was very loved and respected by so many and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his four children, son, Doug Wood, Jr. and wife, Kathy, daughter, Cheri and husband Jim Francis, son, Mark Wood and wife, Traci, daughter, Marla and husband John Pittman. Grandchildren Jeff (Morgan) Wood, Grant (Jessica) Wood, Jake (Sarita) Francis, Rebecca (Rob) Pritchard, Jordan (Jordan) Rymer, Josh Francis and fiancée Meagan Meeks, Coty Wood and her partner Zach Levine, Heather (Shawn) Maynor, Alexis Wood, Johnny Pittman, Jr., AnnaKate (Cameron) Dillion, Gray Pittman and 18 great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Neil Wood and brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, and nieces and nephews, whom he loved very much.

He will be reunited in Heaven with his wife of 63 years, LaVerne, his parents, his brother Preston Wood, granddaughter Rachel Wood and his great grandsons Olin Wood and Foster Wood.

The family would also like to thank his loving caregivers Jessica Wofford, Cameron Sir Louis, Shirley Jones, Kathy Self and the staff at Heart to Heart Hospice.

A graveside memorial service with Military Honor Guard will be held on May 1st, 2021 at 11:00am at Hopewell Cemetery in Lindale, Texas. Lunch will follow at Hideaway Lake, Funtier Park Community Center

In lieu of flowers, donations to the David Powell Food Pantry in Lindale or Hopewell Cemetery would be greatly appreciated.

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Cemetery

11652 C R 494
Tyler, TX 75706

Previous Events

Memorial service

MAY 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hopewell Cemetery
11652 C R 494
Tyler, TX 75706

Tribute Wall

“ During L/C Wood's command of the 774th TAS the entire unit would deploy to Rhine Mein AB or RAF Mildenhall every 5-6 months for two months. Smaller contingents deployed to Howard AFB in the Canal Zone, and to Bamako, Mali, airlifting grain throughout the drought-stricken region south of the Sahara Desert. Without exception his crews served with distinction, reflecting greatly on their commander.

After that first deployment my Academy classmate Bob Carlson and I soon were running Training. We interfaced daily with L/C Wood and his Ops Officer L/C Bruce Mosely. Because they both reposed so much trust in us due to our status as Academy grads, our relationship with them grew rapidly.

Much of his time was spent dealing with recalcitrant young airmen and an occasional wayward officer: DWIs, speeding tickets, domestic complaints, bounced checks, drunk and disorderly behavior, marijuana...and still there were the demands of running the squadron. Training had to be completed while at Dyess because little of it could be accomplished while deployed. Our squadron had an airman whom we called Radar who could easily have played the part from MASH on TV. Radar could forge L/C Wood's cursive "D" so well that he could not tell if it was his or if it was forged (he initialed all communications with that cursive "D"). Initially he didn't know what we were doing. Later, he'd look at me with that knowing grin and hand me a piece of paper with his initial on it that he'd never seen before and say "Wing wants more info on this subject" and walk away knowing we'd take care of it. It was a secret shared by the four of us.

After upgrading to Aircraft Commander a brand new officer in the squadron accosted me in front of our temporary HQ while we were deployed, insisting that I buy some savings bonds. Assuring him that I wouldn't be buying any the HQ doors flew open and Col Wood literally burst out of the building accompanied by L/C Mosely, red faced and angry, yelling "Damn it, the next SOB who gives me any crap about not buying bonds won't turn a prop for 6 months and will be permanent Savings Bond Officer and CQ!" As he approached I saluted and said "Good morning sir!" He returned my salute and said "Good morning Willie." He stormed by continuing to stew over the pressure being put on him by his boss about these bonds. I turned to the newbie and said "How many do I need to buy and where do I sign?"

He was promoted to Colonel because he was an exceptional leader. His men loved him, they'd do anything for him and his squadron was outstanding. Shortly after I upgraded to Aircraft Commander, he said to me that the two best jobs in the Air Force were his and mine. He absolutely meant it.

Several years ago we held a reunion in his honor. Not surprisingly many of us attended from all over the country. The keynote speaker was Lt Gen Maxwell "Clay" Bailey who had worked for Col Wood as a rookie Aircraft Commander. Our Wing DO Col Milstead attended (Col Wood's boss at Dyess) as well as Col

Mosely. LaVerne later sent us a letter telling us that she almost stayed home due to her struggle with memory issues, but that the two of them absolutely loved it. So of course did all the rest of us!

I left the USAF in 1978 for a variety of reasons. In all honesty, had I been able to continue working for this amazing man I would have remained in the Air Force for a career. The single best job of my lifetime was working for Doug Wood. Rest in Peace, Sir. I hope to fly your wing again some day.

Bill Emmer - January 28 at 09:39 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Retired Air Force Col. Floyd Douglas Wood Sr..*



April 28, 2021 at 08:36 PM

AH

“ *Doug was a good friend and neighbor in Fayetteville. He and LaVerne were good friends long after that too.*

We send our most sincere sympathy to all the family.

Colonel Wood helped get our son get Intrrested in ROTC at Arkansas

That led to a pilot career in the Air Force and then to United Airlines as pilot.

We loved the names Lolly and Pop they had as grandparents.

So to Cheri, Doug, Jr., Mark and Marla we send our thoughts and prayers and sympathy at this time of loss.

Ann and Jim Halligan

Ann and Jim Halligan - April 19, 2021 at 11:43 AM

MP

“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



marla pittman - April 17, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Marla Pittman - April 17, 2021 at 08:54 AM

CF

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Cheri Francis - April 16, 2021 at 09:28 AM

CF

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Cheri Francis - April 16, 2021 at 09:03 AM



“ 12 files added to the album Memories Album



Marla Pittman - April 16, 2021 at 08:52 AM

JH

“ Prayers for peace & comfort for you all !! Thankful for your Dad's service to our country !! Blessings ! John & Bette

John Hope - April 15, 2021 at 08:05 PM

MM

“ Mary McLean lit a candle in memory of Retired Air Force Col. Floyd Douglas Wood Sr.



Mary McLean - April 06, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ *Linda Sanders lit a candle in memory of Retired Air Force Col. Floyd Douglas Wood Sr.*



Linda Sanders - April 05, 2021 at 06:50 PM



“ *Ruthie Shaver Hicks lit a candle in memory of Retired Air Force Col. Floyd Douglas Wood Sr.*



Ruthie Shaver Hicks - April 05, 2021 at 11:39 AM