

## Donald Dean Brown 1927-2006



COLONEL DONALD DEAN BROWN USAF, Ret. Colonel Donald D. Brown Senior was born in Riverside February 16, 1927, seconds after his older twin sister Beverly, and he passed away May 23, 2006. During his 79 years on earth, he impressed those he met with his dedication to duty, his devotion to his loving wife Shirley, his wit, mechanical aptitude and his impressive artistic abilities. In 1944 he joined the US Navy at the age of 17 and as a machinist's mate served in the Pacific theater on the North Dakota Class battleships USS Massachusetts and USS Alabama. When the war in the Pacific ended on September 2, 1945, he watched across Tokyo bay as General Mac Arthur oversaw the Japanese surrender on the battleship USS Missouri. Vowing never to see another war from the engine room of a battleship, then Machinists Mate

3rd class Donald Brown joined the US Air Force as an Aviation Cadet, specializing in Fighter Pilotage. He obtained his wings on 12th of May, 1951, at Williams Air Force base in Chandler, Arizona. Shortly thereafter he received a commission with the US Air Force as a second lieutenant, eventually rising to the rank of Colonel. He was assigned around the world during his career in the US Air Force taking his family to the four corners of the globe from the Philippines, to Chile, to Germany. Colonel Brown was the quintessential fighter pilot. He first saw combat in Korea flying the F-80 fighter bomber with the 80th fighter bomber squadron in Korea, earning his first Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding bravery and flying ability. While leading a flight of four F-80 type aircraft, despite poor visibility caused by darkness, he navigated to the assigned target scoring direct hits causing extensive damage to the bridge. Despite intense ground fire and poor visibility, he also destroyed 3 additional trucks he observed on a side road. His second DFC came almost twenty years later during the hostilities in Southeast Asia, while commanding the 25th Tactical Fighter Squadron, in Ubon Thailand. While flying as an F-4D Aircraft Commander on May 3, 1970, Colonel Brown flew an extremely hazardous area denial mission against a heavily defended route segment while disregarding intense antiaircraft artillery fire. The citation states "The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Colonel Brown reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force." Throughout his career, the Air Force's recognition of his extraordinary abilities and his dedication to duty and mission lead to increasing responsibilities, eventually leading to promotion to Colonel and assignment as Wing Deputy Commander of Operations for the 36th Tactical Fighter Wing at the US Air Base in Bitburg Germany, a nuclear equipped tactical fighter squadron, from where he retired to civilian life. After his Air Force career, he devoted the rest of his life to family, friends, painting, building a nursery business growing trees, and restoring his treasured Ford Model "T" cars. He leaves behind his beloved wife Shirley, his sons Donald Dean Brown Jr., Garry, and John, his daughter Victoria, and his grandchildren Savannah, Caroline, Erica, Austin and Heather. He was an honorable man, and he will be missed. Gravesite services will be at Riverside National Cemetery at 11:15 am on Thursday, June 1, staging area 2.

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