



Col. Arthur T. Hoffson

August 13, 1943 - June 2, 2006

HOFFSON - Col. (ret) Arthur Thomas Hoffson passed away June 2, 2006 following a lengthy illness. Col. Hoffson was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville, lifetime member of the Air Force Association, a Daedalian and Red River Valley Fighter Pilot River Rat. Born August 13, 1943 in Greenville, S. C., the son of the late Col. W. A. and Elaine Thomas Hoffson, he grew up on military bases in Japan, Hawaii and Texas. He received a bachelor of business administration from the University of Texas in 1965 and earned a master of science degree in Public Administration from Troy State University in 1976. Col Hoffson is also a graduate from the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington DC. In 1965 he was commissioned a 2nd Lt. through Officer Candidate School and graduated from pilot training in 1966. He volunteered for assignment to Vietnam as an F-4 Pilot and was assigned to the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, Ubon Thailand. On August 17, 1968, on his 97th mission over North Vietnam, Lt. Hoffson was shot down and captured while attacking a heavily defended river crossing on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. He was held prisoner of war in Hanoi, N. Vietnam until repatriation on March 14, 1973. In 1974, Captain Hoffson married Susan Corbin at the First Baptist Church of Decatur in a beautiful military wedding attended by more than 30 former POW's. The Hoffson's enjoyed flying and staff assignments in California, Florida, Virginia, New Mexico and Washington, D.C. Col. Hoffson was a command pilot with more than 2,100 flying hours, including 250 combat hours

in the F-4D. He was an instructor pilot in the T-38 and F-16 aircraft. His military decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with eleven oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal and Prisoner of War Medal. In an interview with the Thunderbolt Newspaper, Mac Dill AFB, Florida, in 1986, Col Hoffson spoke of his POW experience. " When you live under the duress of poor conditions and physical torture, you really have to reach far into your reserves to continue," said the Colonel. " the most positive thing about the experience, and I do have a lot of positive feelings about it, was that I learned to take time out of everyday to examine my values and motivations and I learned to listen. If there's a gift to be given, that's it. If you take the time to understand yourself and others," he said, " and really listen to what others are saying, you have found one of the keys to living a more productive and satisfying life." Col. Hoffson is survived by his beloved wife, Susie and cherished son, Brian Hoffson, West Palm Beach, Florida; devoted sister, Sandra and Rick Marts, Kennet Square, Pennsylvania, In-laws, Woody and Betty Corbin, sister-in-law, Cynthia and Harvey Leake, Sr., brothers-in-law, John S. Corbin and David Corbin, Cousins, Make and Jean McDermott, College Station, Texas, Jonnie and Ken Patranella, Helotes, Texas, Nephews. Chris and Anke Marts, Wilmington, Delaware, Bradley Marts, Durham, N. C. Harvey Leake, Jr. Daniel Leake, Niece, Laura and Casey Laws and great niece and nephew, Caroline and James Laws. Our family is especially grateful to Dr. William McGann, Gwinnett Pulmonary Group and Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, Cardiovascular Group for their friendship and compassion during Art's long illness. We would like to thank the fifth floor nurses and respiratory therapists at Gwinnett Medical Center who cared for Art these past few weeks and Peachtree Christian United Hospice, special thanks to Dr. Lamar Holley and the Lydia Sunday School Class, Lawrenceville First Baptist Church for ministering to Arthur in exceptional ways. A full military honors memorial service will be held at the Tim Stewart Funeral Home, 300 Simonton Road, Lawrenceville, Georgia

30045, Saturday, June 10, 2006. Visitation will be from 1-3 PM, with service at 3:00 PM. Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville Building Fund, P. O. Box 228, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046 or Campus Crusade for Christ. Military Family Ministries, Home Builders, Mike & Linda Montgomery, 117 Lee Ave., Poquoson, VA. 23662. Please sign online guest registry at www.stewartfh.com 770-962-3100

Tribute Wall



“ *I wore a POW bracelet with his name on it the entire time I was in college. His aunt was my mom's best friend. My mom was from Cameron. RIP, Tommy*

Tommy Hewitt - May 28, 2023 at 08:09 PM



We lived on the same street in Camp Springs, MD as his dad, Gus. I remember when Art went MIA and how sad everyone was only to learn he was still alive. So glad he made it back.

Richard Lyman - August 18, 2024 at 07:48 PM



“ *Col. Arthur T. Hoffson*

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ *I am Sorry to Hear Capt Hoffsn has passed away. I bought his pow bracelet while working at an Army Base in Colorado. I was going through some old jewley and found it. Ifth family would like to have it I would b glad to send it.*

BerniceDesiderio###imported-begin###Bernice Desiderio###imported-end##

August 25, 2009 at 08:56 PM



“ I served with Art while posted to the Pentagon. I grew to know him, not only as an outstanding staff officer but as an exceptional individual. We worked on a number of projects together and shared lighter moments in social setting as well. He was one of several individuals whom I knew served his Nation with extended periods as a Vietnam POW. I pray for him often, for his family, and thank God I had an opportunity to meet this exceptional hero and patriot.##imported-begin##Colonel H Lee Dixon (USAF) (Ret)##imported-end##

August 26, 2008 at 03:40 PM



“ I am only now learning of your loss. Please accept my condolences on your loss. I have had Col. (then Captain) Hoffson's POW bracelet all these years and continue to be very grateful for his service to us. It is so good to hear that after his years of sacrifice he was so blessed with family and friends.##imported-begin##Susan Sirmans##imported-end##

February 10, 2007 at 10:04 PM



“ What a remarkable man. I am blessed for knowing him even if it was for such a short time.##imported-begin##Lane Perno##imported-end##

July 17, 2006 at 12:20 PM



“ We are thinking of you all in your loss. Thank you for your love and service to our Lord God.##imported-begin##Jeff and Janna Montgomery##imported-end##

June 22, 2006 at 08:57 AM



“ I always enjoyed my hours in the F4 with Art. He will be in our prayers.

Chris Caravello##imported-begin##Chris and LeAnn Caravello##imported-end##

June 17, 2006 at 02:39 PM



“ Uncle Art was so special to our family and was loved dearly. He taught us honor and respect. We are proud of his accomplishments, not only in his career and for his country, but for the way he expressed his love and appreciation for his family. I am so thankful that my two young children have pictures and memories with their Great Uncle Hoff. He is truly missed and will always be admired. Laura, Casey, James and Caroline Laws##imported-begin##The Laws Family##imported-end##

June 15, 2006 at 08:44 AM



“ Susie - I was in Art's flight in the 58th in 1975. I remember going to a party at your home in Shalimar. Good times then. I was pleased to have known Art and served with him. My sincerest sympathies to you and Brian.

Sincerely,
George Sebren##imported-begin##George H. Sebren, USAF, Ret##imported-end##

June 14, 2006 at 01:18 PM



“ *God speed Colonel, you're cleared to higher holding!*

*Mark Morgan
AMC History Office
Scott AFB, IL*

River Rat###imported-begin##Mark Morgan###imported-end##

June 13, 2006 at 03:33 PM



“ *Dear Susie and Brian,
we will always cherish our memories of Art. He touched our lives in
so many wonderful ways. We hope he felt our love and respect
through the years. it has been such an honor and privilege to have
him in our family. May his remarkable legacy live on. We love you
Cindy, Harvey, Harvey Jr., and Daniel.###imported-begin##Leake
Family###imported-end##*

June 12, 2006 at 10:07 AM



“ *Susie and Brian,
Please know that we feel your loss and will support you with our
prayers. Art was truly a hero and will be missed by all his friends.
Take strength in each other and know that Art is guiding you along
the path from now on.
Love, Dottie###imported-begin##Mrs Samuel (Dottie)
Porter###imported-end##*

June 11, 2006 at 10:14 AM



“ To the family of Col. Arthur T. Hoffson,

We want to express our deepest sympathy to you in the loss of your loved one.

We are sorry we were unable to attend the service and very sorry we were never able to meet this most incredible man.

Sincerely,

Michael and Jo-Ann Burkett

(Jessica Burkett's parents)###imported-begin##Mr. and Mrs.

Michael Burkett###imported-end##

June 11, 2006 at 03:53 AM



“ *My prayers are with Art's family. May God comfort and uplift them. My prayers are with Art. May he gaze upon the Lord and know the blessedness of perfect rest.*

Love and peace,

Tina###imported-begin##Tina Lockhart###imported-end##

June 09, 2006 at 02:29 PM



“ *After reading Col. Hoffson's obituary in the June 8 AJC, I wanted to thank his family for his service and sacrifice to our country. I wish there were more men like him.###imported-begin##Lloyd Goldstein, Ph.D.###imported-end##*

June 09, 2006 at 12:47 PM



“ Once a fighter pilot, always a fighter pilot.

God Speed

*Bill##imported-begin##Lt. Col. William V. Rogers, USAF,
(Ret)##imported-end##*

June 09, 2006 at 10:27 AM



“ As a Naval Medical Officer attached to a training base in Florida for fliers on their way to aircraft carrier duty in the 1950's,

I came to appreciate how brave and dedicated these young men were. I did not know Col. Hoffson, but his distinguished military record reveals how similar he was to the young men I came to respect and admire. I now pay tribute to Col. Hoffson for the role he has played in protecting our country and allowing its citizens, including myself and my family, to live in freedom and safety. My friendship with his sister Sandra and brother-in-law Rick is made closer by knowing how unselfish

Col. Hoffson was in defending those values and motivations he held dear. Sincere condolences to the Martses and all family members. Boyd and Marcella.##imported-begin##Boyd and Marcella Burris##imported-end##

June 09, 2006 at 12:06 AM



“ Art was a true fighter pilot and most of all a true friend to our family and to so many others. He was the best boss I ever had. He taught me so much and helped me tremendously in my AF career. I will never forget Art Hoffson, he is my hero and always will be.##imported-begin##Terry & Connie Adams##imported-end##

June 08, 2006 at 11:35 PM



“ We were blessed when Art joined our family. Art will live in our hearts forever. Love, Mimi and Papa###imported-begin###Woody and Betty Corbin###imported-end##

June 08, 2006 at 06:35 PM



“ Art Hoffson was huge inspiration to me and I will always have the highest regard for him. I am very sorry to hear of his passing but I know he is in a better place now.###imported-begin###Dan Marts###imported-end##

June 08, 2006 at 06:14 PM



“ Sandy and Rick,
I'm so sorry for your loss. Your brother(in-law) obviously was quite a hero and suffered so others might have a better life. Memories of his bravery must be a comfort now. My thoughts are with you all.
Barbara Novak###imported-begin###Barbara Novak###imported-end##

June 08, 2006 at 03:10 PM



“ Art will always be with us in the role model he provided as father, husband, friend, and Air Force officer. He came a long way from that forlorn, confused captain who, after he returned from POW camp was given \$20 and told to buy some essentials in the Andrews PX, came back out with the bill still clutched in his hand saying he simply could not decide what to buy. Wherever he went, the world was made safer and better--his suffering was not in vain.###imported-begin###Rick Marts###imported-end##

June 08, 2006 at 07:35 AM