



Ronnie R. Radford

March 2, 1939 - January 23, 2021

Ronnie Reginald Radford

On Saturday, January 23, 2021, Ronnie Reginald Radford, loving husband, dedicated father of three children, and Air Force Veteran committed to America's security and success, passed away at the age of 81 surrounded by family at his home in St. Augustine, Florida. Born March 2, 1939, Ronnie's story is one of achievement. Raised from birth in St. Augustine by his parents, George and Lillian, Ronnie came from very modest means, and he committed himself to success early. He graduated Ketterlinus high school having been the valedictorian of his class, president of his class, captain of the football team, and a multisport varsity athlete.

He leveraged his high school success to earn an academic scholarship to attend Davidson College where he was a walk on football player, majored in math and physics, and held a job as cook to pay obligations beyond his scholarship. Halfway through his education at Davidson, he received an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy, joining as a "Plebe" on July 7, 1959. After four years of taking advanced courses due to his two year head start at Davidson, he graduated on June 5, 1963 ranked tenth in his class of 867 graduates. His academic performance garnered the notice of the United States Air Force, who recruited him away from the Navy to attend Stanford University. Within hours of graduating from the Naval Academy, he married Nancy Hall, daughter of former St. Augustine Fire Chief, Brandon Hall, walking under the swords in Annapolis. Upon graduation from Stanford, where he earned his Master's Degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, he served his country for twenty-four years as an engineer and program manager supporting crucial Air Force defense initiatives including an Air Force adjunct to the NASA Gemini space program, the F-16 fighter jet, the Advanced Cruise Missile, and the B-1 Bomber among other programs, rising to the rank of Full Colonel, and in the last two years of his career taking on General Officer roles leading thousands of personnel. These roles took him and his family across the country – north, south, east and west - stationed at Air Force bases and the Pentagon. After retirement from the Air Force, he continued his service in various leadership and consulting roles in the commercial defense industry until he retired for good to St. Augustine in 2007. For many years he continued to serve by supporting various community initiatives through the

Military Officers Association and local elected office among others. Ronnie was an active father, coaching his children's sports teams, helping out with homework, attending father/daughter dances, and instilling love of country in their hearts. His work ethic was legendary, his rigor for perfection was limitless, and his sharp reasoning skills buoyed his work and wit. He put family and country above all else, and he was known for always doing the right thing regardless of consequence. While he was a serious man, his personal joys included listening to Johnny Cash, golfing with friends, and enjoying a good laugh – he was known to laugh so hard he could not speak for several minutes. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, his brother, James Radford, his children, Joel Radford (Robin), Laura Radford, and Gina Mangus (Charles), his grandchildren, Brandi Moore (Andy), Browdie Wylie, Lindsay McLean (Justin), Zachary Mclean (Hannah), Nicholas Mangus, Brock Radford and Bradyn Radford, Elena Mangus, and his great grandchildren Browdie, Anna, and James. Due to COVID considerations, private services will be held at Craig Funeral Home Monday February 1, 2021 at 11 AM ET, and virtual participation will be supported at the link below

<https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=161177722797591>

The military portion of the service can be seen at the link below.

<https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorise.php?k=161247812899163>

For additional details please visit their website at <https://www.craigfuneralhome.com>. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to be made in Ronnie Reginald Radford's honor to The Wounded Warrior Project (<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>).

Cemetery

Jacksonville National Cemetery

4083 Lannie Road

Jacksonville, FL, 32218

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Craig Funeral Home Crematory Memorial Park - February 04 at 01:03 PM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Craig Funeral Home Crematory Memorial Park - January 29 at 03:52 PM



“ I served with Ron in F-16 SPO. Always appreciated his directness and quick wit. Always pushing forward. I got his job as Division Chief when he left -- but would never use the word replaced -- there was NO replacement!

Al & Marianne

Al Haberbusch - February 07 at 03:08 PM



“ Thank you, Al. We certainly agree he cannot be replaced.

Joel Radford - February 17 at 02:33 PM



“ When I arrived at the F-16 SPO in Jan'78 I got assigned to Major Ronnie Radford to work radar. I knew nothing about radar being an aero propulsion guy, but after many hours of sitting in front of Ronnie's desk watching him flip his pencil I learned to manage the F-16 radar program for 5 more years. After we both retired as Full Colonels I had the opportunity to work for Ronnie again at his office near Eglin AFB, FI where more pencil flipping took place. I will always remember Ronnie as a boss and friend who helped grow a Captain to a Colonel. He will be missed. Nancy you have mine and Kathy's most sincere condolences.
John Warner

John Warner - February 03 at 10:29 AM



“ Thank you so much on behalf of my mom and the whole family.

Gina - February 07 at 09:14 AM



“ Ronnie was one of my closest friends in high school. He taught me how to study and had a major influence on my pursuit of a college education and becoming an engineer. One summer when he was out of college and his mother had moved, he wanted to stay in St Augustine to be close to Nancy. He stayed at my house for the summer. My mom and dad loved him. I will always love him and miss him. He was a great man.
Cliff Rhodes

Clifford Rhodes - February 01 at 08:00 PM



“ Thank you so much for this story. I never knew that. He always talked about his good friend Clifford.

Gina - February 07 at 09:15 AM



“ I remember that time when our family came to visit you near Cincinnati (on our way up to Cleveland to visit my former in laws) Our son James was still a baby. You had that precious Sheltie, and Nancy with her amazing Disney memorabilia collection! I treasure that memory!!

Nikki Radford Hensley-Savio - February 01 at 01:26 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ronnie R. Radford.



January 31 at 08:47 PM



“ Few have the good fortune to serve with a classmate, great friend, true family man and Patriot for better than half their military career. We always have the many experiences of life after service - watching families mature, frequent home visits and the all too infrequent golfing interludes.

Time and distance can never dampen those memories. God bless you and your family.

Love, Paul and Anne

Paul and Anne - January 31 at 12:11 PM



“ Thank you.

Gina - January 31 at 03:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronnie R. Radford.



January 29 at 07:00 PM



“ Nancy

I certainly remember all the good times at Christmas when the LOTC allowed the husbands to participate in the fun and merriment associated with that fine group of ladies. Some of the 'gifts' brought much laughter to the group. Remember the deer? My sympathies for your loss as I understand some of the things you are going through. Best wishes to you, Joel, Laura and Gina.
Craig

Craig Kern - January 29 at 04:15 PM



“ Thank you, Mr. Kern. -Gina

Gina - January 30 at 09:05 AM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Ronnie R. Radford.



January 29 at 03:14 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronnie R. Radford.



January 29 at 02:01 PM