



## Col Edward Levell Jr

April 2, 1931 - August 20, 2024

Edward Levell, Jr, passed away August 20, 2024, in his Virginia home with family by his side. Born April 2, 1931, in Jacksonville, AL, Eddie was the first of four children of the late Edward and Gabrella Leavell.

Eddie grew up in Jacksonville, attended Jacksonville High School, and received his bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University in Alabama. Earning a master's degree in urban Sociology from the University of Northern Colorado, Eddie continued his pursuit of excellence by also earning a master's degree in management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and the National War College.

With an extraordinary military career, "Steady Eddie," as he became known, commanded two Wings and an Air Division, flying over 150 combat missions in Southeast Asia. His exceptional leadership was recognized during his tenure at the Air Force Academy where, as Deputy Commandant of Cadets, he commanded all 40 Cadet Squadrons, overseeing 4,400 cadets with a steady hand and heart of compassion. In December of 1983, Eddie retired after a 30-year military career as an Air Force Colonel and one of the Tactical Air Command's most accomplished fighter pilots and leaders.

Throughout his distinguished career, Eddie was honored with numerous awards, including the prestigious Legion of Merit Award, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, Eight Air Medals, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Transitioning to a new chapter of his life, Col. Levell served as Deputy

Commissioner of Operations at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport for 5 years where he continued his unwavering dedication to public service. For 11 years, he was Director of Aviation for New Orleans International Airport (currently Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport) where he led with distinction before his second retirement. Even in retirement, Eddie's passion for aviation remained and he continued to serve as a consultant to the aviation industry for several years.

Eddie's commitment to excellence extended beyond his military service. He was a life-time member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and recognized in the 1990 Who's Who Among Black Americans. In 1991, Eddie was inducted into the Tuskegee University Athletic Hall of Fame.

A devoted family man, Eddie enjoyed 49 years of marital bliss with his beautiful wife Rosa Maria Casellas Levell.

Eddie leaves to treasure his memory his beloved children, Cheryl "Tootie" Rivera (Frank), Michael "Milo" Levell, Randy "RC" Levell (Lisa) and Willie "Will" Dantzler; one sister Ruby Ann Leavell-Hartley (Joey); two brothers John Levell and Thomas Leavell (Margaret); 19 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends who cherished him deeply. He was preceded in death by his wife Rosa "Kitty," and his sons Edward "Chico", Ruben "Rusty", Kenneth "Skipper", and Raymond "Raymo".

Eddie's life was one of profound service and deep love. He touched the lives of many with his wisdom, kindness, and unwavering dedication to his family, country, and community. His presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him.

May he rest in peace, reunited with his beloved Rosa and sons, soaring high above the clouds he once commanded with such grace and skill.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorial contributions be made to The Falcon Foundation in his name. Donate.(paypal.com) Levell.pdf.

(falconfoundation.org)



# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Ave  
Arlington, VA 22211  
(877) 907-8585

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ Just seeing this. My condolences to his entire family. He influenced my goals and results from the very beginning of my officer career at Ft Lee in 1980. Thank you, Colonel Levell. You set the highest standards for all of us during our career and beyond. What an amazing legacy you left behind.

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**J T Kemper** - February 15 at 08:39 AM

SH

“ To the family of Col. Levell: Thanks for sharing him with me and the world he was a great man and mentor of mind. Safe journey Colonel Love Sean Hunter

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**sean c hunter** - September 26, 2024 at 11:14 AM

KI

“ I miss you, Grandpa. Thank you for pouring so much love into me and your other grandchildren. I'm grateful for you and the example you set for me and so many others. You were black excellence personified, a good human being in general, a man with integrity and heart. Please hug "Abuela" (Rosa) tight for me in heaven. And the same for "Uncle Rainbow" (Raymo), Uncle Rusty, and Uncle Chico. There will never be another like you. You live through us all. I love you forever.

*Kisha*

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**Kisha** - September 17, 2024 at 07:01 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Col. Edward Levell Jr Tribute photos



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**Rosalyn Leavell-Rice** - September 15, 2024 at 09:56 AM



*So glad you 4 got together last year. Big Mama's babies. I will always love you and miss you Uncle Daddy.*

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**Rosalyn Leavell-Rice** - September 15, 2024 at 09:58 AM

CS

“ Carol S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Col Edward Levell Jr.

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**Carol S.** - September 02, 2024 at 03:31 PM

CS

“ Col Levell, Kitty and his sons were such an amazing family that I knew at Luke AFB Az ; an unwavering kindness to all and fond memories a family I cannot forget ; they all touched many people in ways that is remembered I'm glad I got to know such a wonderful person and family as Levell.

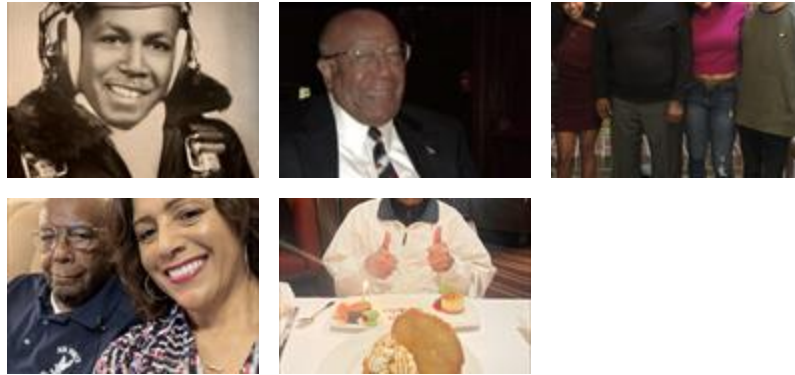


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**Carol Street** - September 02, 2024 at 03:29 PM

TR

“ So many great memories we shared with Dad! Birthdays, holidays, special events and so much more! We were with you every step of the way!



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**Tootie Rivera** - September 02, 2024 at 11:09 AM

AD

*What a beautiful tribute to your beloved father. You honor his legacy. May his memory be a blessing to all who carry his memory forward.*

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**Alecia DuPont** - September 05, 2024 at 05:28 PM

EM

“ 1 file added to the album Col. Edward Levell Jr Tribute photos



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**Edward Moon** - September 01, 2024 at 05:53 PM

EM

*Eddie was the Black pilot in the 474th TFW and I was the Black pilot in the 27th TFW (four squadrons per wing) when I arrived at Cannon AFB, NM. At one time, Eddie had more pilot time in the F-100 than any other USAF pilot. I learned a lot. Big Thanks.*

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**Ed Moon** - September 04, 2024 at 04:10 PM

EM

*This was Eddie at the addition of the F-100 in the Udvar Hazy (Smithsonian) displays.*

**Ed Moon** - September 04, 2024 at 07:43 PM

RS

“ *Dad, Me at 18 years old saluting the BADDEST Fighter on the planet, MY Dad. I love and am with you per Mom and justice-Just-Us.*

*Randy #5*



**Randy RC Level #5 Son** - September 01, 2024 at 05:02 AM

RL

*Wow!!!*

**Randy Levell** - September 02, 2024 at 05:24 AM

TR

“ *1 file added to the album Col. Edward Levell Jr Tribute photos*



**Tootie Rivera** - August 31, 2024 at 09:31 PM

TR

*Truly the best there ever was! 💙*

**Tootie Rivera** - September 01, 2024 at 05:10 PM

BS

*I was a UPT student who RON'd at Luke AFB because my IP, Capt Dave Ramsay, was good friends with Eddie and planned our T-38 Cross Country to stop first in PHX and then off to Randolph. That night at Happy Hour, Major Levell and Ramsay drank me under the table; we stayed at the Levell's and next morning Ramsay got me up to fly next X country but first, he had me do multiple wing formation ILS 's with our companion IP and his STUD. Mind blowing experience meeting Major Eddie, the first Black Fighter I met in the Air Force who years later got me accepted as a Academic Instructor at the Air Force Academy. Sad to hear of the passing of this early hero inspired me to be a Combat Pilot in the F-4. Read my story: [www.CaptBrianSettles.com](http://www.CaptBrianSettles.com)*

**Brian H. Settles** - September 01, 2024 at 08:19 PM

BS

*The Air Force fighter pilot who motivated me to fly fighters. May God rest hie soul. Fond memories, Capt B Settles*

**Brian H. Settles** - September 01, 2024 at 08:25 PM

DR

*Col Eddie Levell was a long time, friend. He had many major assignments. Whether serving as commander at Huburt Field, or is Wing Commander at Luke Air Force Base he always excelled and made us all proud. He has left an indelible mark in the United States, Air Force as a premier fighter pilot but most of all he was just a great human being. Passionately known to his close friends as Steady Eddie and may he rest in peace.  
Frankie T. Jones, Sr.*

**Dr. Frankie T. Jones, Sr. Col(s)USAF ret** - March 01, 2025 at 01:07 AM

MR

“ *Michelle Rice lit a candle in memory of Col Edward Levell Jr*



**Michelle Rice** - August 31, 2024 at 06:57 PM

MR

Love you Uncle Daddy❤️..I will miss you ❤️🥹🥹🥹

Michelle Rice - August 31, 2024 at 06:58 PM

TR

“Daddy, even though you are gone, your memories will forever be precious, and the blessing is that you are still alive in all of us. We miss you so much and want to tell you that we love you tremendously. It hurts to think that you are not here anymore. Although I can't help but smile to think of how we cherished each and every moment of our lives together when you were with us. We know that you are back with your one true love "mom" and the boys watching over us. I miss you, daddy!



Tootie Rivera - August 29, 2024 at 07:33 PM

TR

“1 file added to the album Col. Edward Levell Jr Tribute photos



Tootie Rivera - August 29, 2024 at 06:57 PM

BS

A true Fighter Jock!!! Hero! Role Model for Achievement..

Brian H. Settles - September 01, 2024 at 08:26 PM

GH

*I have only fond thoughts of Eddie, Kitty and their family. We met them In Ft. Walton Beach and continued our relationship in Petersburg, Hampton, Chicago, New Orleans and Fairfax. They were both mentors and friends. I feel blessed to have known them. The relationship felt like family. My sincere condolences to all for our lose.*

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**Gloria Harris Hopson** - October 04, 2024 at 11:05 PM