



## Gordon Bradburn

November 15, 1919 - November 24, 2007

Gordon F. Bradburn, Colonel, USAF Retired died on Saturday, November 24, 2007 at Capital Hospice.

After graduation from DePauw University, he entered the military service during World War II. His career spanned an electrifying rescue effort he lead at the North Pole which was chronicled by Life Magazine in the early 1950's and later served as the subject of a movie to a daring successful escape and evasion in the jungles of Vietnam in 1966 when he was shot down in combat.

During his military career he served in a variety of leadership positions while piloting 40 different aircraft ranging from troop carriers and helicopters to gun ships and fighter craft. His leadership led him to be selected in 1964 as the Wing Commander of the 1st Air Commando Wing which had been recommissioned back into service just several years earlier by President John F. Kennedy. He moved on to command the 14th Air Commando Wing in Vietnam where he personally led his troops in over 350 combat missions and the Commandos were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart along with both Army and Air Force Commendation Medals with clusters. Most recently, he was featured in the April 2007 issue of Air Force Magazine along side of General William Westmoreland.

In 1943 he married Romaine Bradburn and they raised three children: Barbara, Beverly and Bruce. The family traveled extensively as Gordon served his country in a variety of locations throughout the United States and overseas. He earned a Masters Degree from George Washington University, a Parachutists Badge and was a Command Pilot with over 6000 flying hours. His final duty assignment was at the pentagon where he served as Deputy Chief, Middle East, African and South Asian Division in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With the passing of his wife and retirement from the military came the reinvention of Gordon as he made Northern Virginia his home and launched a new career as an entrepreneur

He married Patricia Bradburn in 1977 and they raised 5 children from Patricia's first marriage: Trina, James, Eric, Mark and Dan. In 1980, Pat and Gordon founded American Stripping Company to take advantage of a patent Gordon has secured for an abrasive stripping process. The duo lived the American Dream as they started their company from scratch and grew it to a multi million dollar operation handling challenging projects in Northern Virginia and throughout the United States. The family of 5 found all the children involved in the business during it formative years and the continuation of the business by a second generation as James moved up to take ownership and drive the company to even greater heights in recent years.

He also served on the Board of Directors of The Bradburn Company in Atlanta, Georgia and participated in the company's trade shows in High Point, North Carolina for over 18 years as he lent support to his son's international home furnishings company.

Gordon is survived by his wife of 30 years, Patricia, his 3 children, 5 step

children, fourteen grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas on Friday, November 30, 2007 from 2-4 and 7-9 P.M. A graveside service will take place at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 11:00 A.M.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest donations be made to Fisher House Foundation, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600, Rockville, Md. 20852 or [www.FisherHouse.Org](http://www.FisherHouse.Org) in memory of Colonel Bradburn.

Condolences can be sent to [www.piercefh.com](http://www.piercefh.com)

# Tribute Wall

LJ

“ *Pat,  
We are so sorry for your loss. Brad was such a kind man, we always enjoyed talking with him when we came over with the horses or to visit Eric and Diane. Our prayers are with you and the family.  
Leslie and Richard*

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**Leslie McElroy and Richard Jones** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

SP

“ *Dear Pat, Bruce, Beverly, and Barbara:*

*I'm so very sorry to hear of Brad's passing. He was an extraordinary man who blessed our family with many wonderful memories. He will be sadly missed.*

*We hope you are all able to find strength in the love he shared with each of you.*

*Peace and blessings from Salem, Virginia:*

*Sybil, Rick, Taylor & Morgan Puruczky*

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**Sybil Puruczky** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

RJ

“ *Aunt Pat,  
I was so sorry to hear about Brad. You and your family, and Brads family, are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Our love to all  
Ray-Ray and Dawn Warner*

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**Ray Warner Jr** - March 29, 2013 at 02:03 PM

KP

“ *We are thinking about you. Be there for each other and hang on to the love and memories that you will for forever.* ”

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**Kathy Price** - November 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM