



General John Brooks

January 15, 1948 - October 28, 2023

Major General John Brooks USAF retired

On October 28th, 2023 a bright light went out for Gayle and for all those who loved John Brooks. He was the love of Gayle's life for 53 years. John was devoted father to Kristin and Ryan Melissinos and Kerry and Michael Williams. He was a dotting grandad for his 5 grandchildren, Nicholas, Michael, Jordan, Kayla and Greyson. John was an incredible person to all who knew him. John will always be remembered for his intelligence, integrity and his passion for his family and friends.

John devoted 29 years of his life to the USAF, after retiring he went on to spend 11 years with Nothrop Grumman and spent 3 years with Aerojet. He then found his passion for wine. John founded and taught 2 wine groups. He, Gayle and friends would travel the world going to all the best wine regions looking for the perfect wine.

We will be holding a visitation with John on Saturday November 11th, 2023 from 2-4pm at Pierce Funeral home in Manassas for family and friends to come together to pay your respects and mourn.

John will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to Hearts Delight in his name. It was an organization close to his heart.

Heart's Delight

c/o American Heart Association

4601 N Fairfax Drive, Suite 700

Arlington, VA 22203

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Previous Events

Visitation

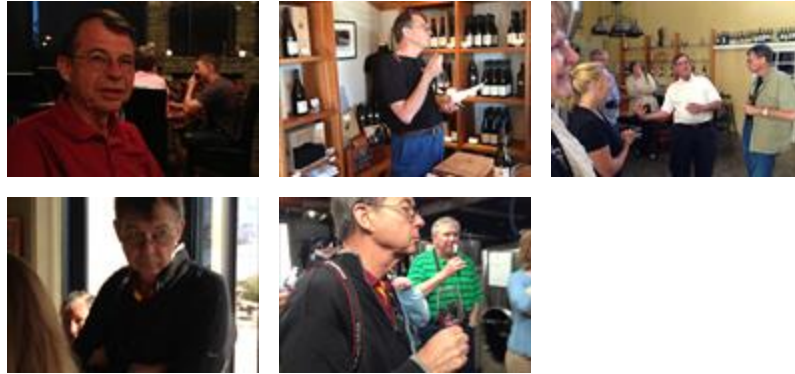
NOV 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall

DC

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Dickie Conn - April 02, 2024 at 03:49 PM



“ It was an honor to serve under John Brooks. He was my commander at the 345th TAS Yokota AB, Japan. He was an outstanding commander. Your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Keith Lynch

Keith Lynch - November 18, 2023 at 10:08 AM

BR

“ General Brooks was a fine commander and a gentleman. He was a mentor to many of us young C-130 pilots when I was at Yokota Air Base from 1985-1987. Over the years to follow I used to cross paths with him at meetings or “just passing through” and he always greeted me with a smile and hearty handshake. Rest in Peace.

Brice Robinson

Brice Robinson - November 14, 2023 at 11:03 PM

AH

“ Our condolences to Gayle and the rest of John’s family. John and Gayle have been great neighbors and friends to our parents and through them, we have been secondary beneficiaries of his great love and knowledge of wine. We know he will be greatly missed in the neighborhood and beyond.

Amy and Jonathan Hart - November 14, 2023 at 08:19 AM

TT

“ This is a picture of General John Brooks pinning a medal on me 25 years ago. He was a great leader, and an even greater human being. I considered it a privilege to know him. My heart goes out to everyone who loves him. I certainly did.



Terry Rosales Taylor - November 11, 2023 at 06:05 PM

BS

“ Knowing John was a great honor and I enjoyed sharing stories with him while golfing and having a beer afterwards. Happy Veterans Day!

Bob Scola

Bob Scola - November 11, 2023 at 11:44 AM



“ *Fond memories of a commander with unwavering leadership and genuine friendship. His legacy of courage and camaraderie will continue to inspire all those who had the privilege to serve under his command. Terry Messer*

Melody Messer - November 11, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Many years ago, John and I worked together at Scott AFB in Operations at HQ MAC. We had great times and lasting memories. He was a wonderful friend. John will be missed.*

David Sherman - November 09, 2023 at 10:11 PM



“ *I had the pleasure of working with John and Gayle after working with his mother in North Carolina. I have such wonderful memories of our visits and discussions about wine. My thoughts and prayers are with Gayle and the entire family. What a very special man, what a special sense of humour and what a special life!!*

jan cobb - November 09, 2023 at 09:10 AM

RC

“ I have read all of the wonderful tributes shown below and they truly capture the essence of this honorable man. I have known John for 35 years and his commitment to his family, his friends and his country set the standard for us all.

I have many personal memories of our time together, but one stands out. As most of you likely know, he was an avid fan of many sports, but his hometown NFL Washington Commanders were his passion. Every fall he would talk about how well they would do despite what the national media predicted. Being a Pittsburgh Steeler fan myself, we daily exchanged early morning texts expressing our opinions on player decisions, trades, draft picks and other related issues in the news. Any topic related to his Commander's guaranteed me an immediate response. Even now, after his passing, I find myself reaching for my iPhone to send him a message, only to realize no reply will be forthcoming. In short, I miss my friend. I miss that connection with the person I could count on to share my interests. There's now a void in my life that will be difficult to replace. Yes, I miss my friend.

Sometimes, if we are lucky, we encounter a person of true quality during our lifetime. That's what John Brooks has meant to me and so many others that he touched along his journey through life.

John, we celebrate your time with us. And until we meet again, God bless you.

Your friend, Bob Crosby

Robert Crosby - November 09, 2023 at 08:54 AM

EM

“ So sorry to hear about John. We have many fond memories of him and Gayle when we served together in the 30th MAS at McGuire, National War College and Ramstein. He was a superb officer and a dynamic leader. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gayle and the entire Brooks family.
Ed and Terry McPhillips

Ed McPhillips - November 09, 2023 at 08:42 AM

LJ

“ We met John at Air Command and Staff College in 1996 when he was Commandant of the school. We were also honored to have him officiate at one of our pinning-on ceremonies. We reconnected after being assigned to the Pentagon and spent the next 22 years as members of his Grape Expectations Wine Group. We will miss his extraordinary talents - connecting people through wine and friendship, planning fantastic trips to exotic wine regions, exquisitely pairing wine and food, and being an amazing family man, to mention only a very few. John - we will miss you dearly and wish you godspeed. Lisa and Jerry Jacques

Lisa A. Jacques - November 09, 2023 at 07:11 AM

BD

“ My family had the opportunity to get to know the incredible Brooks family in the late 90's. He was our base commander. Our daughters were the best of friends. He was an amazing leader, husband and dad. With all of his responsibilities, he still managed to be an incredible friend. Our hearts are you all and know that we are sending our love and hugs as well. The DuCray family.

Beckie DuCray - November 08, 2023 at 09:28 PM

ML

“ Marc L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of General John Brooks.

Marc L. - November 08, 2023 at 05:27 PM

ML

“ An extraordinary man and extraordinary friend. A superb leader who loved our Nation and our USAF. Thank you for your many gifts to us all John. You are in our hearts forever. I feel like you are still right here.

Marc Lindsley - November 08, 2023 at 05:23 PM

BS

“ We are grateful for the opportunity to have known John Brooks. He touched everyone he knew with his kindness and generosity. John loved his family deeply and was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He also loved his country and was a servant leader with the highest ethical values. He will be missed by everyone who knew him and what he stood for in life.

Bobby and Ginger Smart - November 08, 2023 at 01:36 PM

LH

“ John was the one friend who always remembered my birthday and made a point to celebrate that rather than the holiday on which it fell. He was so thoughtful and caring. His love for Gayle and their family was bottomless. I will never forget my friend.

Lenore Hart - November 08, 2023 at 11:06 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of General John Brooks.*



November 08, 2023 at 10:06 AM



“ *John will be missed by so many. He loved his wife, family, and pets dearly. He lived life to it's fullest, and I will sure miss our conversations. Gayle, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. -Amy Button*

Amy Button - November 08, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ *8 files added to the tribute wall*



Kristin brooks Melissinos - November 07, 2023 at 08:51 PM

MW

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Michael Williams - November 07, 2023 at 08:24 PM

MW

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Michael Williams - November 07, 2023 at 08:20 PM

MW

“ 14 files added to the tribute wall



Michael Williams - November 07, 2023 at 08:15 PM

KM

“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Kristin brooks Melissinos - November 07, 2023 at 05:28 PM

KM

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Kristin brooks Melissinos - November 07, 2023 at 05:19 PM