



Arthur Dean Neff

March 24, 1942 - October 10, 2021

ARTHUR DEAN NEFF

Colonel United States Air Force (Retired)

After a courageous battle with cancer, Arthur “Art” departed this life on Sunday, October 10th, 2021 at the age of 79. Art was born to Emmett and Hazel Neff in Cambridge, Ohio and was the youngest of nine children. He was a son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Rebecca “Becky”, daughter Kristina (Adam) Renner, his two beloved granddaughters, Elizabeth and Catherine, sister Marilyn Savage and brother Jerry Neff, as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Richard, Melvin, William, Loren, and sisters, Bonnie and Shirley.

He graduated from Cambridge High School in 1960. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and received his Masters of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Utah. His professional military education included the completion of Squadron Officers School, Air Command Staff College and Air War College.

Art wanted to travel the world and be a leader, so he completed the Air Force Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program at The Ohio State University and received his commission into the United States Air Force in 1966.

His Air Force career included assignments at Base, Major Command and Air

Staff levels. Assignment locations included: Georgia, Virginia, Texas, California, Ohio and overseas in Thailand, Greece and Panama. He served three times as a Squadron Commander, a Group Commander, three times as a Major Command Staff Officer and an Air Force Level Command Staff Officer. He was the Base Commander of Howard Air Force Base and Albrook Air Force Base, Republic of Panama. He attained the rank of Colonel in 1987. His military honors included the Legion of Merit Medal, six Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal (4 Bronze Stars), Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Award, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Persian Gulf Service Medal. He was the recipient of the Air Force Outstanding Services Officer of the Year Award.

He had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force and was proud to have served his country. He had a tireless work ethic and was dedicated to his career. This gave him and his family an opportunity to travel to world-wide places, making lasting friendships and many cherished memories. His lifetime motto was to make a positive difference and leave each assignment a better place to live and work for those he served.

After retiring from the United States Air Force in 1993, he immediately started working at Wright State University and held various positions. He was the Executive Director of Business Services when he retired in 2014.

In 2008, Art was proudly inducted into the Cambridge High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

Art loved his family and being a grandfather to Elizabeth and Catherine. He enjoyed talking to people and telling stories and adding little details to keep his listeners engaged and entertained.

Art enjoyed volunteering at his daughter's school and activities when she was younger. He continued volunteering at the Bellbrook United Methodist Church, where he attended regularly, as well as the Bellbrook Museum and Historical Society.

He loved watching sports and cheering for his Ohio State Buckeyes in football and basketball. Art also enjoyed television, especially action and drama movies. He was interested in learning more about history, geography and archaeology. He loved all kinds of museums, particularly art museums. He also would spend hours listening to all types of music.

In his younger years, Art played basketball and tennis, then later on enjoyed swimming laps and bicycling. He was obsessed with yard work, which was really his hobby, meticulously picking out each blade of grass from the flower beds. He spent hours cleaning a car, washing, waxing (and even using a toothbrush on the trim), and was upset if it rained anytime in the following two weeks.

He had a sweet tooth and always had the second helping of any tasty dessert, especially carrot cake, which was his favorite. He enjoyed decorating all of the themed Christmas trees in the home and using decorations that had been collected from around the world.

Art made an impact on every person he met and was a kind and gentle soul. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him and loved him and will live forever in our hearts. The family hopes those who would like to honor him will find a quiet time to remember who he was in your life and be thankful for the time you had together.

A private graveside service, with military honors, was held at Kimbolton Cemetery. Rev. Tina Gallaher officiated the service. A Celebration of Life event will be held at a future date for friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his honor to the Bellbrook United Methodist Church, 47 East Franklin Street, Bellbrook, OH 45305. Art's online guestbook may be viewed and signed at www.bundy-lawfulneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

BP

“ I just learned of Art's passing last fall and wanted to send my condolences to his family and friends, however late. I worked with Art at WSU and remember him fondly. It was not easy negotiating the politics and different opinions at a university but he was always good at listening and collaborating. Above all he was kind and friendly and made you feel important. I'm very sad to learn of his passing.

Bev Parkison - February 13, 2022 at 11:19 AM

HM

“ I had the great pleasure of serving with Art during our time at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton. Art was a wonderful mentor and a solid and dedicated leader. My wife and I and our daughters shared a wonderful time with Art, Becky and Kristina and have lasting and fond memories of those years. We extend our deepest sympathies to Becky and Kristina and all their family. Art's passing is indeed a loss of a wonderful and caring individual.

Sincerely,

Harry Mamaux, Colonel, USAF (Ret) and Gulcin Mamaux

Harry Mamaux - November 25, 2021 at 07:56 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

May your memories of Col. Arthur Dean Neff, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

US Air Force Col. Veteran, Arthur Dean Neff, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - October 25, 2021 at 06:04 PM

MM

“ *Sending my sympathy to the family of art
i worked with Mewlvin and Jerry at Phillips Products
My sister knew Art and Becky when they were in Panama*

*Margaret J (Peggy) Murgatroyd
Penny S Gibson*

Margaret J Murgatroyd - October 24, 2021 at 09:24 PM

SW

“ Art was a wonderful man who accomplished so much in his lifetime! Our Love and prayers are being sent to Becky and family❤️✝️



Sandy and. Larry West - October 24, 2021 at 07:30 AM

LB

“ Hi I am Linda Barclay, daughter of Arthur's Uncle Willard and his wife Mary I don't remember Art very well but with his lifetime achievements he was gone a lot so it's understandable but I remember as a child visiting his Mom and we just lived around the hill at five forks on High Hill road and I myself still live on the backside of the farm on Patton Hollow Road. The Neff family are a very proud and helping member of the times and to loose one puts a big hole in the rest of the Neff's hearts.If I can be of any help just let me know.

Linda Neff Barclay - October 23, 2021 at 05:36 PM