



Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.)

October 9, 1936 - December 27, 2019

Colonel Donald Ray Brewer, Ret., age 83 of Grant, Alabama passed away Friday, December 27, 2019 at his residence.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at Grant Church of Christ with David Powell and Clayton Tuggle officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in Panquin Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Monday at Grant Memorial Chapel. The body will lie in repose from 1 p.m. until time of service on Tuesday at Grant Church of Christ.

The family will accept flowers or donation so may be made to Grant Church of Christ or to Families of Fallen Soldiers, in his honor.

Col. Don Brewer is a native of Grant, Alabama, the son of J. L. and Dollie Foster Brewer. He graduated from Kate Duncan Smith DAR High School in 1954, worked for the FBI in Washington, DC as a fingerprint specialist for a time, and enlisted in the DC Air National Guard. Called to active duty with the Air Force during the Pueblo Crisis, he remained in the Air Force until retirement with over 38 years of service.

His educational background includes a Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of Maryland. He is also a graduate of the Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, The Industrial

College of the Armed Forces, and the Air War College. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal for service in Vietnam, and the Legion of Merit.

During his military career, Col. Brewer held every rank in the Air Force from Airman Basic through Senior Master Sergeant, and from 2nd Lt. to Colonel. He says the highlights of his career were commanding the military air terminal at Kadena AB, Okinawa, service in the air terminal at Rhein Main AB, Germany, and as Director of Air Transportation for the Pacific Theater while stationed at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

He and the former Jean Kirkland, daughter of late Homer and Ruth Kirkland of Grant, were married for 64 years. Together, they raised three children: Roger (Jo Donna) of Grant, Jennifer of Huntsville, and Renee of Seattle, Washington. They also had three grandchildren: Christa Frangos of Huntsville, Chelsea Brewer Hagen (Mat) of Dothan, and Chandler Brewer (Sidney) of Montgomery. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by 5 brothers and 4 sisters.

Arrangements Entrusted to Grant Memorial Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Panquin Cemetery

Cottonville Rd.
Grant, AL 35747

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **30**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Grant Memorial Chapel
4930 Main Street
P.O. Box 484
Grant, AL 35747
(256) 728-2000
grantmemorial@nehp.net
<https://www.grantmemorialchapel.com>

Visitation

DEC **31**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Grant Church of Christ
4197 Cathedral Caverns Road
Grant, AL 35747

Service

DEC **31**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Grant Church of Christ
4197 Cathedral Caverns Road
Grant, AL 35747

Tribute Wall

AN

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Anthony Newton - January 08, 2020 at 09:55 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dan Brewer - December 30, 2019 at 06:33 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dan Brewer - December 30, 2019 at 02:01 PM

DS

“ I remember when (then Major Brewer) arrived at Rhein-Main and took over as the passenger service officer replacing outgoing Major Chuck Ulmer. It was not only a smooth transition from one fine officer to another but if my memory serves me correctly he took over about the time all DC10 passenger aircraft were grounded in the U.S. and prohibited from coming into the U.S. because of the American Airlines disaster at Chicago's O'hare airport. World Airways was a prime contractor using that air frame and was unable to fulfill their obligation because of this. MAC scheduled C-141's to replace the DC10's as much as possible and the passenger service folks were burdened with keeping up with all of the hubbub of 4 to 5 C-141's instead of one DC-10. He and the passenger service as well as the entire aerial port stepped up to the plate to meet that challenge. It was a TON of extra work but it did not phase his ability to rally the troops and get the job done. My wife and I left Rhein-Main in the fall of 1980 and our paths did not cross until we joined the reunion group in 2007. We saw he and Jean in San Antonio in 2008 and again in Branson in 2012. Our last visit was Atlanta in 2017. Linda and I will certainly miss this very fine officer and friend.

David Smith - December 30, 2019 at 12:18 PM

YB

“ Your Friends at DataHouse in Birmingham purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).



Your Friends at DataHouse in Birmingham - December 30, 2019 at 10:59 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).*



December 30, 2019 at 09:47 AM



“ *Marion L “red” Froshour, CMSgt, USAF (ret) purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).*



Marion L “red” Froshour, CMSgt, USAF (ret) - December 30, 2019 at 09:04 AM

MF

“ One of our country's' great leaders has moved to a better place. Major (now Colonel) Don Brewer was my boss when we ran the air transportation operation at Rhein Main FRG. When we took over, he was new, I was there TDY (temporary duty to civilians) ha. We had a mess, Ramsteins' runway was closed, so myself and all of my band of characters moved to augment RMs'band of characters. What a mess, I would have been crazier had it not been for Major Brewer, what an outstanding USAF Officer. We pulled it together and insured this crew merged as an effective force. Don caught it from all direction, his senior leadership, the vast amount of diverse Airmen, as well as, from me. That is why his steady hand carried us forward successfully. I could speak volume of accolades into infinity, but all who know this fine Senior Officer understands. May God rest his hands on Don eternally, the family will miss him, his friends will miss him and I will certainly miss him, as he was like the brother I never had. I love you man..Rest In Peace my very special brother. Marion L “red” Froshour, Chief Master Sergeant, USAF (ret). Centerville, Georgia 478 397 9575

Marion L “red” Froshour - December 30, 2019 at 08:51 AM

DB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dan Brewer - December 29, 2019 at 07:04 PM



“ Col Brewer is one of the finest officers I met during nearly 40 years of military and civil service, and inspired so much trust and loyalty in his troops that I would gladly have gone to war with him. The reason he was such a good leader is that he was such a good man. In a crisis he was calm, and in good times he could be counted on for a good laugh. I’m so grateful that he tracked me down in 2001 and invited me to be a part of the 435 APS reunion group, giving me the opportunity to remain in close contact with him for the next 18 years.

Carole Lail - December 29, 2019 at 09:42 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).



December 29, 2019 at 08:54 AM



“ Lisa Ledbetter and Pat Ledbetter purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).



Lisa Ledbetter and Pat Ledbetter - December 28, 2019 at 11:41 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).



December 28, 2019 at 05:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).



December 28, 2019 at 04:35 PM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).



December 28, 2019 at 03:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Col. Donald Ray Brewer (Ret.).



December 28, 2019 at 02:13 PM