



Lieutenant General John L. Pickitt, USAF, Ret.

July 30, 1933 - March 14, 2020

Our beloved John joined the ranks of his fallen comrades in the Long Gray Line on March 14, 2020 at The Cypress in Charlotte, NC. A Mass of Christian Burial followed by full military honors at the Forest Lawn East Cemetery, March 19, celebrated his life with only dear family members present, due to the risk of the Coronavirus.

John was born to Katherine and Leonard Pickitt July 30, 1933 in the little town of Teague, Texas and grew up in another small town, Gilmer, Texas. He attended Kilgore Junior College before entering the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, in 1951. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1955. He earned a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1961. He also completed Air Command and Staff College in 1965 and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1973 along with an extended course at the Kennedy School at Harvard on National and International Security Management.

John was a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in 6 different fighter aircraft. He flew 161 combat missions out of DaNang, Republic of Vietnam, 100 of them over North Vietnam as an F-4 aircraft commander. The list of John's 23 assignments at many bases in the States and overseas in his 32 years of service to his country, his many decorations and service awards along with his time in industry as CEO of Computer and Business Equipment Manufacturers Assn (later the Council of Information Technology Industry) could fill a dozen obituaries. The boy from a small farming community, raised by school teacher parents with a wonderful younger sister, Kathy - all of whom predeceased him - went on to earn the rank of three-star general managing thousands of people and millions of dollars in resources.

John loved golf, fishing and hunting and above all trap shooting. He has shot more than 370,000 registered targets and was 8 times All American.

John is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Mary, his devoted children, son John and

daughter-in-law Karen, his daughter Patti Farmer, and as beloved Poppop by grandchildren Kailey and Trevor Pickitt, Kate and John Christian Farmer. The family wishes to extend sincere appreciation to all the caregivers who provided him with warm and respectful care at the Stewart Center of The Cypress.

A good man who lived a good life, John is remembered with great love and admiration by his family, his many friends and those with whom he served. John lived in every way, every moment of his life, the West Point pledge of "Duty, Honor, Country!"

Events

MAR Funeral Mass

19

Heritage Funeral Home, Weddington/Matthews
3700 Forest Lawn Drive, Matthews, NC, US, 28104

MAR Military Honors Ceremony

19

Forest Lawn East Cemetery
3700 Forest Lawn Drive, Matthews, NC, US, 28104

Comments



“ I was a Lieutenant at Luke AFB in 1979 when General Pickitt became a general. I had the highest admiration for his leadership and kindness of spirit. I saw a humility in the man sometimes so rare and yet so noble a characteristic in men achieving high station and repute. Maybe he never forgot his roots in that small Texas town. It was more than 40 years ago yet my memory of the man is vivid.

I hope that these poor and perhaps insufficient words of mine gives some small measure of comfort to the family.

Myles Raucher - October 19, 2021 at 07:18 PM



“ sorry, I did not know my fb character (yellow smile) is attached here that I have used long years in the fb.
I really apologize it.

Kiyong Kim - December 25, 2020 at 06:42 PM



“ Merry Christmas Mr. General & Maam.
35 years ago your warmest and special love for me, whole my life it have been my biggest pride, sprit power and gladness.
Whole my life I respect, appreciate, love, miss and keep the beautiful memories.

In end of Oct. I knew respectful Gen. passed away by Google search.
And then I opened my facebook to see the General pictures with much tears.
At the time I surprised again what I uplord in my fb on 14th March 2020.

Gen. & Ma'am's warmest loves for poor and low positionded people will be long remembered and appreciated.
good bye sir!!

much love kiyong with much tears.

Kiyong Kim - December 25, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Gen. Pickitt’s passing. I knew him when I worked at Hendrick Porsche and worked on his car many times for many years. I loved to hear his stories he always shared and was always glad to see him. I remember doing alignments on his car and we would always do them with the back loaded down with his rifles so he could get an accurate alignment since he said he drove that car all over to matches and always had weight in the back. He will always be one of those people you come across in a lifetime that you never forget and I never will.....Prayers to his family....

Eric Eschert - May 14, 2020 at 04:15 PM



“ I'm so saddened to hear of John's passing. He was a very well loved member of the Harris Express YMCA. It was always a joy to speak with him and hear his stories of his time in the Air Force. My son is a pilot in the US Navy and John would always ask about him. John was a lovely gentleman who always had a smile on his face. He will be missed by his YMCA family. Sending love and sympathy
Louise Metcalfe

Louise Metcalfe - March 22, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ Patti, Sorry to see that your dad passed. What a long wonderful life.

John Windell

John Windell - March 22, 2020 at 09:10 AM



“ I miss seeing the General and his precious, wonderful family at the Stewart Health Center. I may not have known you all for a long period of time, but what I saw of all of you, I will treasure forever.

God’s Speed and thank you for everything for all of the family’s sacrifices!

Lynne

Dora - April 09, 2020 at 10:07 PM