



Edward Burke Mucho Co L-2

A son of the “wild blue yonder”, Burke has continuously had his goals set for the same. Always the life of the party, with a full address book, and a bulging overcoat pocket. Burke will always be a true friend. “No sweat” is his byword, but his determination, spirit, personality, and a blue uniform will be his wings to success.

Born – 21 March 1939, Rock Springs, WY.

To USMA – from San Bernardino, CA.

Died – 27 March 2017 (age 78) at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA. Buried at Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

Military Awards – Distinguished Flying Cross, 13 Air Medals, 3 Air Force Commendation Medals, Meritorious Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Schooling – Master’s Degree in Personnel Management.

Family – Wife – Valerie Jo Harris (17 years, divorced in 1979) – 2 children (Rob and Burke) – 4 grandchildren. Partner – Sandy Shapiro (22 years).

Contact – Sandy Shapiro, Address 4542 Willis Avenue, #208, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403, Phone unknown, Email sandyretired@gmail.com.

Burke served on active duty in the Air Force for 21 years, retiring in 1982, with the rank of Lt. Colonel. His first assignment was pilot training at Reese AFB at Lubbock, TX. He then served at Travis AFB, CA (17th Air Transport Squadron, ATSq), Hawaii (50th Military Air Transport Service Squadron, MASq), Vietnam, Bien Hoa and Danang (12th Special Operations Squadron, SOS), Travis, AFB, CA (70th Air Refueling Squadron, AirRfgSq), Wright-Patterson AFB, OH (Air Force Institute of Technology, AFIT and F5 Program Office), Wright-Patterson AFB, OH (Headquarters 4950 Test Wing), Mount Pleasant, MI (Central Michigan University), Los Angeles, CA (Defense Contract Administrative Services Region, DCASR), Los Angeles, CA (Air Force Space and Missile Center, SAMSO). At SAMSO, the last assignment was in the Global Positioning System (GPS) Joint Program Office as the Director of User Equipment. User Equipment developed all of the receiver types for various weapons systems of the three services and NATO. This was on the leading edge of one of the most revolutionary developments of the 20th century.

After retiring from active duty in the Air Force, Burke worked for the Hughes Aircraft Company as (1) Project Manager of the M-1 Tank Program, (2) Manager of a multiple sensor development program for the Comanche helicopter, (3) Project Manager for the Hughes Night Vision System (FLIR), (4) Manager of Hughes Air Force programs and Middle East programs, mostly in Saudi Arabia. He then joined Northrop-Grumman as a Logistics Manager for the B-2 Bomber program and then Manager of the F-18 repair program supporting McDonnell Douglas. Burke passed away (his final flight) on 27 March 2017, from the MRSA staph bacterial infection.

Footnote from Burke – “I grew up as an Air Force ‘Brat.’ I knew from an early age that I wanted to fly, and West Point was a means to accomplish that....On our first day (at West Point), when ordered to ‘drop your bag’, one of the first questions they asked was, ‘What Branch do you want?’ I answered ‘Air Force, Sir!’ I didn’t know what fun was until most of the Upper Classmen descended on me. In spite of that onerous beginning, I graduated into the Air Force and went to Pilot Training.”