



Obituary

Lieutenant General James F. Record

Lieutenant General James Record started life as a farm boy, born in Clinton County, Indiana on September 6th, 1938, the son of Edwin and Enid Record. At an early age, he was excited by the thought of flying so he took lessons and got his pilot's license while in college. He continued chasing his dreams with this same tenacity his entire life.

A Distinguished Graduate from ROTC at Purdue University, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force in 1961. During college, he was a leader on the Purdue AF ROTC Drill Team which won several national honors, including National Champions. Today, he is a member of the Purdue AF ROTC Hall of Fame.

General Record's Air Force career followed suit. He moved through the ranks, excelling during each assignment. He was a command pilot who flew two separate tours of duty in Vietnam, one as a Forward Air Controller and one as an F-100 fighter pilot, flying 616 combat missions and over 1,100 combat hours. He piloted 11 different aircraft totaling over 6,000 flying hours in his 36 years of service. He commanded 3 fighter wings, an air division, and served as the first Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. Culminating this distinguished career, he commanded 12th Air Force and U.S. Southern Command Air Forces comprised of 8 active duty wings, over 450 aircraft, 35,000 active duty and civilian personnel as well as 21,000 Reserve and National Guard forces with over 360 aircraft.

His military decorations include the Vietnam Service Medal with 6 service stars, 27 Air Medals, the Bronze Star, 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Legion of Merit with 3 oak leaf clusters, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with 1 oak leaf cluster.

General Record retired from Air Force service in 1997. He then served a 2 year assignment as a Senior Executive for Hughes/Raytheon in Saudi Arabia. Upon returning, he began his next career in an executive position with Raytheon Missile Systems in their business development division. He worked there until 2007 when he retired for the second time.

General Record died peacefully on December 22nd, 2009. He is survived by his mother Enid, his wife Peggy, sons James, John, and Joe, as well as brother Ray and sisters Arlene Harshbarger and Barbara Woodhull.

A memorial service will be held at Davis-Monthan AFB on Tuesday, January 5th at 3:00 at the base chapel. If you do not have base access, please contact Bill Pitts at billpitts1@gmail.com to be included on an entry access list. A reception will follow at the Officers' Open Mess. Interment will be in the Arlington National Cemetery.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Leukemia Research Foundation.