



## Brigadier General Robert B Plowden, Jr. USAF (retired)

June 7, 1932 - September 21, 2017

Brigadier General Robert B. Plowden, Jr. USAF (retired) died on September 21, 2017.

A native of Sumter, SC, he was born June 7, 1932 to the late Robert and Elma Coskrey Plowden. He is survived by his cherished wife of 63 years, Harriett Cunningham Plowden. They had two children, Elizabeth and Robert (deceased). Beth and her husband, Richard Corrigan, have a daughter Caitlin, the grandchild adored by Bob. He is also survived by two brothers, Irvin Plowden of Rock Hill, SC and James Plowden of High Point, NC as well as several nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

Following graduation from Clemson in 1954, Bob entered the US Air Force and served as a career fighter pilot, retiring in 1986. During his active duty, Bob held command positions which included his posting as the Commander of the 52nd Tactical Fighter Wing in Spangdahlem, Germany. Recognized for his leadership talents, he was appointed to the National Security Council during Gerald Ford's presidency and did tours of duty on the NATO staff and at the Pentagon. His military awards and decorations include: The Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal and Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters.

After military service where the family traveled to postings all over the globe, the Plowdens moved to Litchfield in the Pawleys Island area of South Carolina. During his "retirement" years, Bob served on several HOA boards and as president of the Community Association where he lived. He also was

appointed as a Director of the Georgetown County Water and Sewer Board for 13 years and as its Chairman for 9 years.

In 1988 he was asked to serve as the chairman of Georgetown County's first strategic planning effort that produced a follow up called Visions Two. These plans were adopted by the county government and have been credited with contributing in large measure to Georgetown County's designation as one of the ten All-American Counties in the country.

In 1998 Bob was named "Economic Ambassador for Georgetown County," by Governor David Beasley. In 2016 the Knights of Columbus awarded him as a "Vision Maker" for his "Lifetime of Service to God, Family and Country."

Bob has been a lifelong and faithful Methodist and was a member of Belin UMC in Murrells Inlet, SC, where he served on various governing committees and boards. Funeral services will be held at Belin United Methodist Church on Tuesday, September 26 at two o'clock. In lieu of flowers, memorials in his honor may be made to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Belin UMC Box 528, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Litchfield/Pawleys Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

JB

“ Please accept the condolences of a former 512 TFS Captain flying F-4s that served under BG Plowden in the late 1970s at Ramstein. He was a great leader and I learned a lot from him. He is remembered! Our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family.

*John L. Barry, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)*

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**John Barry** - January 21, 2018 at 09:25 PM

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“ I served as General Plowden's Executive Officer when he was Commander of the 52nd Tactical Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem AFB Germany around 1980. He was an officer of rare integrity and humanity. As a young officer working by his side every day I learned leadership lessons which served me well in my 29 year USAF career. He gave me tremendous opportunities and took a strong hand in pushing my career along. I owe him a debt I can never repay. I think of him and Harriet fondly. They were so kind to me and my family. My heart goes out to Harriet and the entire Plowden family.

*Roger Barnes, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)*

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**Roger Barnes, Lt Col USAF (Ret)** - October 01, 2017 at 09:44 PM

PS

“ We were so sorry to hear of Bob's death. He was a great person and well respected by all. Prayers are with Harriett and family. Keep the faith!

*In Christian love,  
Paige & Susan Sawyer.*

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**Paige Sawyer** - September 29, 2017 at 07:05 PM

WU

“ Thanks for your service Airman !!!  
Wayne Williams  
United States Marine Corps



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**Wayne Williams - USMC** - September 25, 2017 at 10:03 AM

JM

“ General Plowden was a great leader who provided excellent services to our country and the people who resided there. I will never forget what he did for the residents of Georgetown County  
Joe Muffolett

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**Joe Muffolett** - September 24, 2017 at 04:15 PM