



William Heath Rutherford

May 7, 2008

Lieutenant Colonel Ret. William H. Rutherford William Heath Rutherford, 78 of Surfside Beach, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday May 7th, 2008 at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center. Born in Montgomery, Alabama, Bill is the son of the late C.D. and Lois Rutherford. He enjoyed a very distinguished military career achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was a command fighter pilot in the United States Air Force and the District of Columbia National guard for more than 30 years. He was stationed at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base four times 1957, 1968, 1970 and 1976 during his career. Lieutenant Colonel Rutherford flew a number of aircraft including the F-86H, F-100D and A-7D. He was the chief of Airfield Management at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base when he retired in November 1981. He also served a tour in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970, where he flew 100 combat missions. Bill's military awards and decorations include the Air medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. There will be a street "Rutherford Loop" named for Bill at the Market Common on the former Myrtle Beach Air Force base. From 1957 – 1968 he served as a Detective Sergeant on Prince George's County, MD police department. Following retirement, Bill earned a Real Estate Brokers License and a Real Estate Appraisal License. He worked as a Flight Coordinator with The North American Institute of Aviation in Conway, SC. Bill was an active member of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, serving in many capacities such as

licensed lay reader, Vestry and president of the Men's Club. He was very active in the Crusillo movement within the Diocese of South Carolina. Bill was a loving husband and devoted family man. Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Jean Rutherford; son Allen Rutherford; granddaughter, Ashley Growden and great grand son Bradley Growden; sister Rosanne Schoen; and niece Laura Eser. He was predeceased by his daughter Cynthia R. Lambe. The memorial service will be held on May 11, 2008 at 4:00 at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. Presiding over the service is The Very Reverend Edward T. Kelaher. Inurnment will follow in the church columbarium immediately following the service.

Tribute Wall



“ Jean, I just came across this recently. I'm so sorry we haven't kept in touch enough so that I knew about this sooner. My condolences, very late...##imported-begin##Lorraine Gray##imported-end##

October 25, 2010 at 12:32 PM



“ I will always remember like my father, love ya##imported-begin##Bonita Canterbury##imported-end##

March 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Bill late in his life. I will remember him as a gruff, direct, and kind man who was willing to share stories about his life, knowledge he possessed, a good joke, and a laugh with friends and strangers alike. I will miss knowing he is on our Earth. Steve Kimmel##imported-begin##Steve Kimmel##imported-end##

May 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean, My sincere sympathy to you and family. I worked with Bill in 1978 as a young Air Force Captain just back from Vietnam. He was an inspiration to me and a good friend. We also worked together at North American Institute of Aviation, where he continued to mentor me. I am a much richer and fuller person to have known Bill. God Bless you and family. We will all miss him.##imported-begin##Mike Marlowe##imported-end##

May 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We can only hope that his last flight will be his best. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.##imported-begin##Bill & Susan Davidson##imported-end##

May 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bill, I miss you already. Your grin and good nature, the self-effacing flying stories, our shared enjoyment of Dewars and Wingdings. You are God's wingman now. Save a space for us to join up. Burro, old buddy, Kent##imported-begin##Kent Bosworth##imported-end##

May 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bill was our friend for thirty eight years. Condolence to the Rutherford family.##imported-begin##Lew and Helen Aufdemorte##imported-end##

May 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ JEAN: OUR THOUGHT'S AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.##imported-begin##DORIE & WAYNE DAVIS##imported-end##

May 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Alan & Jean, I just wished to express my condolences on your loss. I hope during this time you feel some comfort from the love of friends, family and our Lord. My deepest sympathies, Steve Brakefield##imported-begin##Steve Brakefield##imported-end##

May 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bill was a great fella, and will be missed by all of us.##imported-begin##Buddy Wehman##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Always the gentleman. Pleasure knowing Bill. Made my introduction to the MB Aviation circle very comfortable when I arrived in 1999. God's peace to you and your family.##imported-begin##Sam Sox, Jr##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We share in your loss and expect to see Bill again in that big hangar in Heaven. Curtis and Vivian Williamson##imported-begin##Curtis Williamson##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ You will be missed at Charleston Hangar of Q B##imported-begin##Allen Miles##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bill and I became members of a national pilots' group at about the same time in 1984. He was an inspiration to me and I always enjoyed his company and experiences at our meetings. He was truly a good man. He will be sadly missed.##imported-begin##Josiah Williams##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jean, I didn't really know your husband very well but from all that I have seen of him in church he must have been a great man. I was so sorry to read that he had died I was worried in my mind when you told me about his hospitalization. I pray that the Lord will grant you the courage & strength that you need at this time. Please tell your son that my prayers are with him & I will continue to pray for both of you I am sorry I am not there. You have been so kind. I will keep in touch. Love, Barb##imported-begin##Barbara Nye##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy. Bill was always a great guy and we will miss him. Al & Alicia Campbell##imported-begin##Allen Campbell##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Jim Mansfield - CHS QB##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy, Bill was a fine man, will miss him.##imported-begin##Ray Thomas##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ God speed and good winds Bill##imported-begin##john williams##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ God bless you, Bill##imported-begin##Joe and Emily Barton##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean, we were sorry to hear from ed edelen of bill's passing. he will be in our prayers. Lou & Jessie mayhew, Myrtle beach.##imported-begin##Lou & Jessie Mayhew##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I have known Bill and Jean since we joined Resurrection in 1994. They were a part of a loving wonderful family. We will miss seeing Bill every Sunday and feel such grief for Jean. My love and prayers for you both,Nancy##imported-begin##Nancy HenslerEverhart##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bill will be missed in so many ways - to us he was a gentle man who walked close to Jesus and inspired his church family to do the same. He had a great sense of humor and we shared many stories with him. He fought the good fight these past few years with his health and now he is with our Lord. Jean, know we are here for you any time. Our love to you and your family and may God give you all peace in knowing Bill is in a better place.##imported-begin##Jim and Evelyn Ewing##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so saddened and filled with grief at Bill's sudden homegoing. He was a genuinely remarkable person--accomplished in so many areas, funny, compassionate & caring and bore his sorrows so graciously. It was apparent to anyone who knew Bill that his love for his sweetheart wife Jean, his children, granddaughter, and great-grandson were his source of strength & purpose. His love of family was everthing. Bill was a patriot and loved and served his country with highest honor. Thank you Bill. His love and commitment to the Lord was truly his umbrella over his life. We can only imagine the reunion he is having right now in heaven! We loved Bill and miss him. Bev & Lane Smith###imported-begin##Beverly & Lane Smith###imported-end##

May 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM