



Joseph R Hume Sr

June 1, 1927 - May 5, 2017

Lt. Colonel (USAF) Joseph R. Hume, Sr

On May 5th 2017 Joseph Hume, age 89, received his permanent change of station at the VA hospital in Prescott, Arizona. His assignment will be to shepherd those he left behind, his wife Beverly, daughter Rebecca and two sons Joseph and David. In addition, there are four grandsons and three great grandchildren. We will have a memorial for him at the VA cemetery on Friday, May 19 at 3:00pm.

Joe was born in Portland, Oregon on June 1 1927. He spent his early years growing up in a very rural area, but something higher was calling. On a visit to his home, in his room we found old style metal model planes and fighter squadron patches, so his destiny seemed to be preordained. Near the end of WWII, he enlisted in the navy to be a corpsman at the age of 18. However the war ended and he had to find another occupation.

In 1949, he enlisted in a brand new service called the United States Air Force. He quickly climbed through the different training evolutions starting with basic training in a T-6 Texan, a propeller driven aircraft. He then graduated to the first jets, starting with the T-33, where he became an instructor pilot. With the coming of the Korean war in 1950, he trained in the F-84 fighter bomber and

was deployed quickly to South Korea. With his tour in Korea over he came home where he learned his next assignment was to be to train in the brand new strategic bomber, the B-47. He flew his bomber on many overseas flights as part of the nuclear deterrence force used during the height of the cold war. Next up for the Lt. Colonel was scheduling officer at Offutt AFB, the headquarters for the Strategic Air Command. In 1965, he was lucky enough to become a two war pilot as he was assigned a classified mission in Vietnam flying what would become on one of the first electronic warfare airplanes for the Air Force. His mission was to fly over areas we were not supposed to go to ferret out enemy electronic transmissions, to fix the location and call in bombers to silence the radios and anyone around them. It was a very dangerous mission and he received a lot of ground fire. For his efforts in this regard he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the second highest medal that can be achieved short of the Medal of Honor. A few years later in 1967 his next calling was to pilot the C-141 Starlifter, stationed at Charleston AFB, South Carolina. This included many flights around the world and in particular to Vietnam. In 1969, he decided he had just about all the fun he could stand and chose to retire. Where he moved our family to Prescott, Arizona, a place we knew well.

Retiring to a peaceful mountain community and relaxing was not in the cards for Joe. He went looking for a job and found one at U.S. Motors. He joined the senior softball league and played there for many years and developed many friendships. At about the same time he decided he could still serve the veteran community at the VA hospital in Prescott and volunteered over 7500 hours in service to the aging vets there. During his time in Prescott he also played golf on a regular basis. Once his sons learned how to golf, he entered the 1972 Father-Son tournament in Prescott that was held annually. He and his sons played for 20 consecutive years at the tournament and a great time was had by all. Those are some of our happiest memories.

He taught his family well, teaching his family about the important things in life, not to mention Jazz (Stan Kenton), poker and good scotch, in no particular order.

Godspeed Lt. Colonel Hume, you have truly slipped the bonds of earth and put out your hand and touched the face of God.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 Eighth Avenue, 7th floor, New York, New York 10001.

Tribute Wall

JN

“ Uncle Bob Hume...tremendous service to his country. Bob and went to a Cardinals vs. Cowboys game at Sun Devil Stadium in the 1990s. I had a great time with him. Bob also drove my mother to the hospital in Phoenix when she was pregnant with me. Bob also attended my high school graduation. A guy doesn't forget things like that. Rest in peace, uncle.

John Nixon - May 15, 2017 at 06:19 PM



“ MY CONDOLENCES TO YOUR FAMILY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO GOD,FAMILY,COUNTRY. "ANGELS TO HEAVEN"
ps: are you the david hume that i served with on GUAM? either VAP-61/VQ-1? U.S.NAVY.
sincerely, bill wallace



Bill Wallace - May 15, 2017 at 10:30 AM

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“ Joe I didn't know your dad but I remember you from the US Motors days. You worked with my former husband Greg Miller,and that dates back to the early 70's!God's speed to your dad and blessings to your family.A long ago friend - Cathy Ravetto

Cathy Ravetto - May 14, 2017 at 11:54 AM