



Bertram Pickell Jr.

September 15, 1954 - November 7, 2025

Obituary

Chief Pickell was born on September 15, 1954, in Norristown, Pennsylvania and departed this life on November 7, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas. He was the son of the late Bertram Pickell, Sr. and Gloria Pickell.

Bertram Pickell graduated from Pottstown Senior High School in 1972. In August 1973, Bertram enlisted in the United States Air Force as a Morse Systems Intercept Operator. He completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

He earned an Associate Degree from the Community College of the Air Force in Communications Technology. He completed all levels of professional military education in residence. While attending the NCO Leadership School, Chief Pickell garnered the Commandant's Distinguished Graduate and Fitness Award.

Chief Pickell had many stateside and overseas assignments during his 30-year career to include: Kessler AFB, Mississippi; San Vito Air Station, Brindisi, Italy; Shu Lin Kou Air Station, Republic of China, Taiwan; Misawa Air Base, Japan; 450th Intelligence Group, RAF Chicksands, United Kingdom; Clark Air Base, in the Philippines; Kelly AFB.

Chief Pickell's military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with five oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with six oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, and the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star. In addition, Chief Pickell received many other awards.

Chief Pickell was very active in the community. He was on the City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs; he participated in community activities in District 6 to include chairing a walking group.

Chief Pickell is survived by his wife the former Sho Fong Pickell of Kaohsiung, Taiwan. He is also survived by his son Richard (Rebecca) Pickell; daughter Michelle (Steve II), Colonna; four grandchildren: Samantha Pickell, Joseph Pickell, Caleb Pickell and Stephen Colonna III; sisters Gail and Linda; brother Richard Pickell.

Cemetery Details

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78209

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 19. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels North
3401 Cherry Ridge Drive
San Antonio, TX 78230

Graveside Service

NOV 19. 1:30 PM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Full Air Force Military Honors to render their services at 1:30pm.

Tribute Wall

ER

“ My name is Eunice Rome, I wanna say just heard of Bert's passing i wanna send my condolences. Bert, was very nice guy we graduated together class of 1972, The Family of Bert's your in my prayer 🙏 may Bert Bert Rest In Peace

Eunice Rome - February 03 at 03:32 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Bert's passing. I enjoyed getting to know him as I officiated track meets and he was often present and helping. He is the first person to introduce me to competitive racewalking. I was so happy to share with him a few years back that my son was doing it because of his inspiration. Walk free now Bert on the roads paved with gold. You will be missed but your legacy will live on!!!

Sabrina Townsend - January 31 at 12:36 AM

RG

“ Just heard about Bert's passing; so sad. Bert and I served in Taiwan together many hears ago and I considered him a dear friend. Talk about someone with a zest for life! He was a passionate and dedicated man who led by example. Bert has created quite a legacy both in the military and in the community. I will miss my friend. I'll keep the family in my thoughts and prayers. Rest easy, Airman, your shift is done.

Ron "JJ" Graham - November 19, 2025 at 12:58 PM

JA

I heard of Bert's passing today. Was looking online to see if I could get his address to send him a Philadelphia Phillies media guide.

John D Atley - April 18 at 11:32 PM

BM

“ Bert always put others first. Quiet, confident and most helpful. His devotion to others was self evident, whether serving in the Air Force or our City. He will be sorely missed. His example will live on. Rest in peace my friend.

Bill McDonough - November 19, 2025 at 10:21 AM

SE

“ Scallywompus Events purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bertram Pickell Jr..



Scallywompus Events - November 18, 2025 at 01:44 PM

TR

“ Bert will always have a warm spot on my heart. Besides always personable, friendly and helpful, Bert was probably the best operator I ever met. When atmospheric conditions prevented others from collecting, you could here Bert's keys clicking as he continued to follow his assigned targets.

Tom 'Dagwood ' Rinderle - November 17, 2025 at 08:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bertram Pickell Jr..



November 17, 2025 at 04:39 PM



“ I was stationed with Bert at the 6917th, San Vito, Italy. We were fellow COMFY Olympics finalists in 1985. So sorry to learn of his passing. RIP Bert, and heartfelt condolences to family and friends.

Chris Messner - November 17, 2025 at 03:58 PM

CH

Freedom Through Vigilance and Ne Through Ultra Those That are Not Equaled Bertrum was a True Friend. We Served on Special Duty in the AIR INTElligence Agency Together Outstanding Character with unique since of humor, Bert will truly be missed!

Carl W. Humphrey - November 18, 2025 at 10:01 AM

FC

“ Fellow Ditty-Bopper stationed at Misawa AB 1977-78. Had good times... Glad I got to see you and talk for a bit a few months ago. RIP my friend!!!

Frank Cuevas - November 17, 2025 at 02:15 PM

BS

“ I served with Bert on the Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs where I learned so much from him. He was passionate about the mission that we worked towards and also to the Health & Wellness of all folks in our community. Over the years, we had a few conversations where I learned just how strongly he took his responsibilities. I had spoken with him a couple of times at the beginning of his recent health struggles and was praying for his recovery. Many of us around our city will miss this wonderful, kind man. Fly high Bert!



Barbara Scheib - November 17, 2025 at 01:03 AM

HH

“ Hoa, Heather and Jennifer Hanna purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Bertram Pickell Jr..



Hoa, Heather and Jennifer Hanna - November 15, 2025 at 01:08 PM

MT

“ Mayor's Fitness Council Executive Team purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Bertram Pickell Jr..



Mayor's Fitness Council Executive Team - November 14, 2025 at 04:37 AM

 Ramiro Russell

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ramiro Russell - November 13, 2025 at 11:59 PM

 Ramiro Russell

Bert! you will for EVER be missed. Thank you for our talks and for taking lead when I stepped down to move to Arizona. Give my mom a hug, let her know im graduating soon and will be Dr. Russell soon.. Miss you my guy.

Ramiro Russell - November 14, 2025 at 12:01 AM

MA

Bert was a true friend, and loved to run with those long legs. Enjoying working with you and another one gone too soon. Margo Chestnut

margo - November 17, 2025 at 02:49 PM

JT

“ *I had the honor of working alongside Bert at the Joint Commission. In my short time on the commission I was always so impressed with Bert's commitment and passion to volunteerism and Health & wellness. I so enjoyed learning from him and am truly saddened by his passing. May he rest in peace.*

Jo Ann Tobias-Molina - November 13, 2025 at 03:23 PM

GN

“ *I had the pleasure of serving with Bert on the City of San Antonio/Bexar County Joint Commission for Elderly Affairs. Bert was not only a nice man, he was very dedicated to the community. Despite his illnesses and obstacles, he was always there and always willing to make things happen. Truly a good man and we were lucky to have him in our City and County.*

Gavin Nichols - November 13, 2025 at 11:37 AM

AB

“ *A life well lived. Bert was a friend, mentor, inspiration and motivator to everyone - we are all shocked to hear of his passing. What a great loss for the San Antonio community - we all miss you, Bert! Sending our deepest condolences to your family.*



Andrea Bottiglieri - November 12, 2025 at 10:57 PM