



Herbert H. Holmes

November 8, 1928 - March 5, 2006

Herbert H. Holmes, Col USAF Ret, slipped the surly bonds of earth and put out his hands and touched the face of God on March 5, 2006. He was born in Presque Isle, Maine, 8 November 1928, the son of Eva Warman and Rodney Arthur Holmes. On 11 Feb 1951 he married the former Marguerite Short in Milford, Ct. He is survived by her and their three children, Peter F. Holmes, MD and wife Susan; Cindy L. Holmes and Diane M. Holmes, and grandchildren Pamela Holmes, Amanda Rose Holmes-Davidian and Daniel Holmes. After graduation from the University of Connecticut in 1949, Herb signed up with the Connecticut National Guard, went to Officers Candidate School at Lackland AFB, Photo Radar Interpreter School at Lowry AFB, and the 72nd Strat Recon Tech Wing at Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico. He then went to Pilot training at Stallings AB in Kinston, NC; then to the 3545 Pilot Tng Wing at Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, TX. He was awarded his wings 29 Aug 1956, and then to further training at Randolph AFB, TX and West Palm Beach where he piloted the KC- 97. He was transferred to Westover AFB, Ma, and to Plattsburgh AFB, NY where he flew missions in the "cold war" in KC-97's and was upgraded to KC 135 Tankers at Castle AFB. From there he served at Bergstrom AFB, TX where in addition to refueling B52 bombers, he refueled Navy planes on their way to SE Asia. From Bergstrom he was assigned to Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, V A. During the Viet Nam War he flew B-57 bombers, while stationed at Clark AFB where he was a member of the 405th Fighter Wing, flying missions as a member of the 8th and 13th Bomb

Squadrons out of Phan Rang, Viet Nam. His missions were mainly low altitude night bombing missions. While there he earned the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the AF Commendation Medal and the Air Medal, 1st through 18th oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He earned the National Service Medal, the Viet Nam Service Medal, Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross, the AF Outstanding Unit Award and Armed Services Reserve Medal. His war days over, he was Director of Operations Services at Randolph AFB, then to Mather AFB where he was Director of Operations for the 454 and 455 Flying Training Squadrons, and to Chanute AFB, Illinois where he served as the Inspector General, and Deputy Base Commander. He finished his career at the Headquarters Training Center as Commander of the 3290 Technical Training Group, the "Red Hats". He was retired from active duty at Lackland AFB on 29 October 1982 at which time he received the Legion of Merit. After retirement, Herb enjoyed many years living in his "fish camp" on the Guadalupe River in Comfort. His favorite pastimes were fishing and hunting with his friends and family, family gatherings, and music and noshing with his Comfort friends. In his high school yearbook the comment by his picture was "The air doth laugh with our merry wit". Up until his last days, he was known by friends and family for his jokes and sense of humor. He was a member of, the Dedalians, and a life-long member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was cremated in his flight suit as was his wish. A visitation will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2006 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. A graveside service will be held at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery at 10:00 on Monday, March 20, 2006 full military honors. The family would like to give special thanks to the staff of MICUA at Methodist Specialty & Transplant Hospital. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Orthopedic Kneed Foundation or CRTC 9150 Huebner Road Ste. 200 San Antonio, TX 78240.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ *Marguerite,*

Though we didn't know Herb, we knew you. And, only someone very good deserved you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Joyce

Joyce Dorrycott - March 30, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Dear Mugs and family. I first met Herb at Westover and then we went to Plattsburg. Spent a long time as Herbs co-pilot. Herb always had a calming effect on us. He was positive and had a great sense of humor. He kept me in stitches most of the time. We wen*

Chuck Wittreich - March 26, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Dearest Bear:*

I've been reading over your memorials. You were so modest. You didn't realize what a great man you were, and how many people loved you, how many people you touched with your humor, and friendliness. Miss you terribly. The New York Times c

Maggie Holmes - March 25, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *I am very sorry to hear about the loss of your father. I never had the opportunity to met him however Cindy told me many many lovely, wonderful and funny stories about him. I will keep you, and your family in my prayers always.*

Lorraine Flores Stockwell - March 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Sometimes it seems like God is difficult to find and impossibly far away. We get so caught up in our small daily duties and irritations that they become the only things that we can focus on. What we forget is that God's love and beauty are all around us,

CHRISTUS Santa Rosa ASC - March 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ I just came back to San Antonio today and I am sorry to hear of your loss. I am sorry I was not able to attend the service. My prayers are with you and your family.

Beth Cottrell

BETH COTTRELL - March 20, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ With my sympathy and prayers to you and your family at the time of your great loss. Donna said he was a man when you met him for the first time you became his friend. She always look forward to seeing him at the ranch.

Margaret Davis - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ To the Holmes Family:

We are sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

The Berthold Family - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Marge

Give me a call when the time is right for you.

Tony

Tony Gunderson - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. I always enjoyed seeing Herb at the ranch. He made me feel special. I know he enjoyed the time spent there with his family and friends. The grandchildren were lucky to spend this time with him. Again,*

Donna D Schuster - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *COL. HOLMES WAS ONE OF THE FINEST COMMANDERS I HAVE EVER SERVED UNDER, HE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL WHO KNEW HIM - DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS WIFE AND FAMILY.*

M/SGT RET TOM KRCMAR - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your Father and your family.*

*Sincerely,
Stephen B. Persyn
H-E-B Risk Management*

Stephen B. Persyn - March 18, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *Death's sting never goes away… It‘s reconstituted by memories and events like a dried out sponge that's placed in water. Bear's memory may resurface whenever you see or see a plane flight over head, hear a news story about a gallant pilot, or see an o*

Steve Havel - March 16, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ *Herb was the big brother I never had. Bobbie and I will forever miss him.*

Russ Terpening - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *It was a wonderful experience to have the pleasure of working with Herb. Oh, the hunts and the 'cow horn' on the truck. He provided much insight in youthful learning that still remain to this day and have been shared with my family. My sincere sympath*

Jim / Lynn Brougham - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Col Holmes waved his wand of approval over me as a lieutenant a/c at Mather serving with Russ Terpening and John Bonner and I am proud I knew him.*

Jerry Hardy - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *I served proudly under Col. Holmes in the 3290th TTGP at Lackland AFB. I was one of of his "Red Hats". Col. Holmes was the catalyst in acquiring updated facilities for the "Red Hat" School. After he retired he visited our school. I asked him how was re*

James R. Ron Jones - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ OUR PRAYERS AND LOVE ARE WITH ALL OF YOU DURING THIS TERRIBLE LOSS.

duane and gail cleaves - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ We didn't get to spend much time with the Holmes family because they always lived in such faraway places. But reading the stories now I can really appreciate and be proud to have called this hero Uncle Herb.

Leslie Short Skibitsky - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Herb was a wonderful man and it was a pleasure to have been under his command at Mather AFB. His contagious smile brought happiness to all those who were associated with him. God has undoubtedly commissioned him into eternity to the joy of all those who

John and Nina Frankle - March 13, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ With all our love to Maggie & Family. Herb was like a protector to me and inspired songs from Bill.

Rose & Bill Rhoads - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ We will miss a good friend of many years ago.

Don and Lois Thomas - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *The memories are everlasting - the fun we had with the office plants and riding around doing the "base inspections." And, of course, the crow hunts!*

The Wirges Family - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Our love and sympathy to Maggie and the Holmes family. Herb was a great man. I have many great memories of him as our DO at Mather AFB in the 70s.*

Joe & Marie Scheimer - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Col Holmes was a pilot's pilot, natural leader, consummate professional, full of life and fun.*

John H. Bonner, Lt Col-USAFret - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Holmes Family -- Herb made us laugh and was an awesome grandfather to Amanda.*

Lonny and Janice Knowles - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ *Herbert H. Holmes*

Bob & Elsie Kenney - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Enjoyed the camping trips, ball games and the summer we spent at Camp Sequasin. Truly a fine person to be with, as Herb could always fine humor and bring levity to ANY situation!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Muggs and family at this most difficul

Bob & Elsie Kenney - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CU

“ He touched many lives in a positive way. The world was a better place for his journey thru it. He'll be missed and remembered.

Col. Michael R. Gallagher, USAFRet - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ With deepest sympathy on the loss of your father.

As a USAF retiree I can appreciate his contribution to our country.

May you find confort in family and friends at this time.

Paul/Glenda Gill - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Our family sure enjoyed those 15 years we spent growing up with ya'll on windbrooke.

God Bless,

Brian Cleary

Brian Cleary - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ My sincere condolences to Muggs, the children and family. I will always have fond memories of pulling "alert tours" at Plattsburgh AFB with Herb and when we fished the Saranac River for trout. Also when we flew our low level flights from Sonderstrom AB, G

Clint Wagner,USAFRet - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Herb was a larger than life, humble man who knew how to live and laugh. Remembrance of his jovial personality has remained with us through the years. Our condolences to you Marge, Pete, Cindy and Diane.

Ray & Ruth Wellington - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ We are blessed to have known you.
Kitty and David

Kitty Sanderson - March 12, 2006 at 12:00 AM