



## Col. James R. McDonald, USAF, Retired Obituary

July 5, 1938 - October 2, 2006

Col. James R. "Jim" McDonald, USAF Retired, 68, of Lee County, died Monday, October 2, 2006 at his residence. The memorial service will be held at 11 AM Saturday at Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors with full military honors. A native of Poulan, Mr. McDonald was born to James Andrew McDonald and Clifford Thompson McDonald. Jim was an ordained Methodist Minister when he left the clergy and went into service with the United States Air Force. He was assigned to McConnell AFB, KS and attended the Missile Launch Officer's course at Vandenberg. He was then assigned as a Deputy Missile Commander at a Titan II missile site. Mr. McDonald became the first First Lieutenant to command a combat missile crew in the Strategic Air Command (SAC). Later, he was assigned to the First Strategic Air Division, Vandenberg AFB, CA as the Executive Assistant to the commanding general. He was then assigned to Squadron Officers' School at Maxwell AFB, AL as the wing commander of a group. After attending the Air Command and Staff College, he was assigned to the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA where he received a Masters' Degree in national Security Affairs. Mr. McDonald then attended the Foreign Language institute to learn Hebrew and Arabic. After graduate school, he was posted to Headquarters Strategic Air Command as the Special Advisor to the Commander In Chief Strategic Air Command where he negotiated with Israel and Egypt on the terms for military separation as a member of the Camp David Accords team. He was also the SAC negotiator for the SALT II talks in Switzerland where he helped set the guidelines for

cruise missiles to be carried on heavy bombers. Mr. McDonald was then assigned as the Military Air Attache to the United States Embassy, Tel Aviv, Israel. Mr. McDonald was later assigned as the Director for Middle Eastern Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense. He later formed a business with a partner, specializing in sales to the Department of Defense of audio visual information systems to the U.S. government as well as foreign governments with U.S. approval. Mr. McDonald is survived by his son, James F. McDonald of Sterling, VA; a brother, Russell C. McDonald and his wife Barbara Ann of Lee County; several nieces and nephews; and several great-nieces and great-nephews. The family will receive friends at Kimbrell-Stern following the memorial service. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to Albany Community Hospice, P.O. Box 1828, Albany, GA 31702.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Col. James R. McDonald, USAF, Retired Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Col. James R. McDonald, USAF, Retired Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Col. James R. McDonald, USAF, Retired Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *My condolences to the family.*

**Michael Cha** - October 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. I used to live around the corner from him when we were boys and enjoyed his company so much. I always knew he would do a lot of good things with his life and intended to look him up the next time we visited Albany from Virginia.*

**Don Goodroe** - October 09, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Jamie and Russell, I was out of town all last week and was sadden to learn today of Jimmy's death. I'm so sorry I was not here for the memorial service to celebrate his life and many accomplishments with you. He was truly one of a kind and I will always smile when I think of him.*

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**Becky Dusterdieck** - October 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this time of loss. Jimmy was a classmate of mine and I'm so sorry to hear of his passing.*

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**Penny McDaniel and Clark Douthit** - October 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My condolences to the family.*

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**Katherine Jones Mack** - October 07, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BI

“ *The few short years I knew Jimmy were very enjoyable,we talked of the adventres he had in his travles,he kad a lot of humor and was also a very informed person,sad he had to leave at his young age.GOD be with you....Bill*

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**BillOverby** - October 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *Every loss leaves a space that only God's presence can fill!  
May God comfort and be with you in the loss of Jim.  
We will be praying for you.  
Blessing,  
JoAnn (Royal) Norfolk  
Christ has replaced the dark doors of death with the shining gates of  
life. John 11:25*

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**JoAnn Norfolk** - October 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *James, My deepest sympathy. This obituary and the writing that  
Richell sent was very honoring of your father. I'm glad that you are  
reflecting on what he was able to accomplish and to do for you. God  
Bless,  
Tammy H. Manning (friend of Richell)*

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**Tammy H. Manning** - October 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. May he rest in peace.*

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**Chris and Jenna Burrell** - October 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *He has slipped the surly bonds of earth and touched the face of  
God. We proudly salute his twenty-five years of service to the  
nation. Godspeed, Colonel!*

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**Tom and Jackie Brooks** - October 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Dear James,  
Sorry to hear about the loss of your beloved father. My deepest sympathy and condolence to you and your family.  
Thuan Truong and family, Virginia

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**Thuan Truong** - October 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ James,  
Sorry to hear about the loss of your father, my condolence to you and your family.

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**Riaz Ali** - October 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Jim was a fine man and so interesting to be around.  
I visited with him during our class reunion and enjoyed seeing him so much. My deepest sympathy to the family.

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**Peggy Eubanks Salvesen** - October 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ James - Our deepest sympathies and thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

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**George Hegedus** - October 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ We are so sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing. It was nice to see him at the 50th reunion.

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**Marcia (Webb) Spafford** - October 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM

J(

“ *My sincere condolences to Jim's family from a 1956 classmate and fellow pilot.*

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**Jim Bell, Col. USAF (Ret)** - October 04, 2006 at 12:00 AM