



Maj. Dovie B. Syfrett, Jr. Obituary

November 15, 1922 - September 10, 2011

The funeral service for Major Dovie B. Syfrett, Jr., (USAF, retired) will be held at 11 AM Tuesday in the sanctuary of Albany First United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Don Adams and Rev. Carrie Myers officiating. Interment will follow in the mausoleum at Crown Hill Cemetery. Mr. Syfrett was 88 years old. He died peacefully on Saturday, September 10, 2011 and is now with June, his beloved wife of 61 years.

Mr. Syfrett was born November 15, 1922, in Rowesville, SC, the eldest of two children of Dovie B., Sr. and Gussie Way Dukes Syfrett. He graduated from Rowesville School and then entered Clemson College in the ROTC program. As with so many of his generation, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor curtailed his college education and he volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps, gaining his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in September, 1944.

After earning his wings and training in B-17 bombers, Lt. Syfrett was transferred to the new B-29 Superfortress, which he flew in the China-Burma-India and Pacific theaters for the remainder of World War II, except for cargo flights "flying the hump" (over the Himalayans) from India to new air fields in China. In the Pacific Theater he flew numerous missions over Japan in his plane, "Lassie, Too", from West Field on Tinian, and on September 2, 1945 he participated in the flyover of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay as Japan formally surrendered. Dovie occasionally told the story about the ferry flight back to the

U.S. when the pilot, a superior officer, decided to fly the B-29 under the Golden Gate Bridge! He always disavowed any involvement in that decision.

He was next stationed at Roswell Army AFB, Roswell, NM as a flight instructor, where he was sometimes allowed to fly small groups of nurses and other military personnel to March Field at Riverside, CA, for weekend furlough. It was on one such trip that he met his future bride, June Elizabeth Erwin. She was working in a bank in Riverside when they met on March 8, 1946, and after a brief, long-distance courtship, they were married at the Mission Inn in Riverside on May 17, 1946. Within a few months Dovie was transferred to Rhine Mein, Germany where he was a communications officer. June joined him there 6 months later, and they were able to visit many places throughout Germany, Switzerland and France before returning to the US. Assignments at San Angelo, TX, Washington, D.C. and Formosa (Taiwan) followed. In 1955, Captain Syfrett was selected to join the Strategic Air Command (SAC) and he was initially stationed at Loring AFB, Limestone, ME. While at Loring, he piloted the B-36 "Peacemaker" and B-52 "Stratofortress" bombers. Life in SAC was tough, but Dovie enjoyed the Air Force life and was promoted to the rank of Major.

In July 1959, Dovie piloted one of the first four B-52's of the 4138th Strategic Wing that landed at Turner AFB in Albany, GA. The family moved to Albany where Dovie finished his military career in June 1964, retiring from the U. S. Air Force as a Command Pilot with over 20 years active duty service. He soon began a second career onboard MCLB Albany in the engineering section of the Repair Division where he spent another 20 years in service to his country.

Dovie was active in his family, his church and his community. After retirement from the Air Force he had more time to participate in varied activities such as Boy Scouts, where he was a Scoutmaster (Troop 8); the Hasan Shrine Masonic Lodge (33o Scottish Rite Mason) where he was a member of the

horse patrol in the mid-1960s; fishing trips to Ft. Gaines with the boys; active in the Georgia Republican Party; a particularly memorable month spent on a sliver of property along the Nantahala River in North Carolina in the summer of 1964, and many other events and activities. He loved woodworking, though he never seemed to find time to do much with it. He spent hours tending his yard, making sure all the shrubs and grass got plenty of water. He was always a perfectionist in everything he did – perhaps his engineering background coming out.

Dovie was a long-time member of the Fellowship Sunday School Class at First United Methodist Church. He served on the Church Council and as an usher, serving as Head Usher for many years. Most importantly, Dovie supported June throughout her working career, especially after he retired the second time and she went into the real estate business, and always supported his two sons, who are very proud of their dad.

He is survived by his sons, D. Bryant Syfrett, III, and Stephen S. Syfrett and his wife Debbie; four grandchildren, D. B. Syfrett, IV, Scott Syfrett, Cassie Syfrett and Caitlin Syfrett, all of Albany, plus a nephew and niece and their families in the Orangeburg, SC area.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to First United Methodist Church, 307 Flint Ave., Albany, GA 31701

Previous Events

Interment

SEP 13 (ET)

Crown Hill Cemetery
1907 Dawson Rd
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 883-6600
<https://www.kimbrellstern.com/>

Visitation

SEP 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
307 Flint Ave
Albany, GA 31701

Funeral Service

SEP 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
307 Flint Ave
Albany, GA 31701

Tribute Wall



“ *Maj. Dovie B. Syfrett, Jr. Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Maj. Dovie B. Syfrett, Jr. Obituary*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *Maj. Dovie B. Syfrett, Jr. Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Steve,*

I am so sorry for your loss. I will never forget the time your dad gave us a tour at the base. I know you will think of him every day just as I do about my father.

Neil

Neil Wingfield - Leesburg, GA - friend - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Bryant & Stephen, so sorry to hear about your loss. Your dad was really a special guy and i can still rember the fun times we had at the farm in Putney. I know he will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him, but especially by you guys. I'm sorry circumstances didn't allow me to attend the services, but I've had you in my thoughts and prayers. Having been there a short time ago with my dad, I know how you must feel, it doesn't get any easier but, I know the two of them are probably swapping war stories in a much better place. Hopefully see you the next time we are in town.

Don TenHagen

Don TenHagen - Yorktown, VA - friend - September 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I just happened to see this obituary. I wanted to send my sincere sympathy to you (brynant) and your family in the loss of your beloved father. May God give to you peace at this time
cynthia jackson

cynthia jackson - albany, GA - September 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Bryant, Just know you are in our prayers and your mother Darlene. We love you.

Kathy Barfield, Clay Barfield and Matt Barfield - Leesburg, GA - Friend - September 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Guys, you know how much I loved your Daddy. I loved eating at Red Lobster and hearing the career stories and how he met Mrs. June, sometimes for the upteenth time. It didn't matter;. I loved how proud he was of his career and Mrs. June and you boys. He was a dear friend to me. His invitations to lunch after church were one of very few we ever received and it meant a great deal to us. I miss just knowing he's over there. I wish I could be with you but I know Mr. Dovie would want Mike there. He said so a number of times. I loved him very much and I send my love to you both. Thank you and God bless you.
With love, Mildred

Mildred McAfee - Columbus, GA - friend - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Stephen, we are so very sorry for your loss. I apologize that I just picked up your message from my answering machine remotely. We are at the beach for 2 weeks. I missed some of the digits in your cell number and cannot get the message to replay. Sorry we are not in town to make it to the service. You and your family will be in our prayers.

Dimi & Thomas Williams - Albany, GA - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Robert Thompson - Marietta, GA - Family Friend - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Steve,
We are so sorry for your loss.

Lisa Barfeid Hunt and Eddie Hunt

Lisa Barfield Hunt and Eddie Hunt - Albany, GA - friend - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Stephen,

I am deeply sorry for your loss. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and your family. Ya'll are in my thoughts and prayers.

Dianne

Dianne Beck Renn - Vrginia Beach, VA - High School classmate of Stephen - September 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Bryant and Stephen, So sorry to hear about your Dad. The write up in the paper was woderful! Your Dad was a special friend, and had such a wonderful military career. I know you were so proud of him! Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Debbie

Debbie Sutton - albany, GA - friend - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Bryant, Bryan and Darlene,

I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Syfrett. I know that he will be missed. You and the family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Gwen Thrash

Gwen Thrash - Dothan, AL - Friend - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Stephen & family,

It breaks my heart to hear that Dovie is no longer with us. However, we know that he is no longer struggling, but he is now in the presence of his Savior, and also happily with June.

He was a fine man and a true gentleman, and always spoke kind words each time we met. Please know that you are in our prayers during this difficult time, as you adjust to his home-going.

*In Christ,
Ray and Kay Bradley*

Ray and Kay Bradley - Dawson, GA - family friend - September 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM