



Duane Vandenberg

December 22, 2011

Duane Evert Vandenberg, 81, of Hot Springs passed away on Thursday, December 22, 2011, at National Park Medical Center. He was born November 12, 1930, in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, to Nielson Evert and Pearl Wayman Vandenberg. He was reared in Houston, Texas, and graduated from John H. Reagan High School in 1948, lettering and excelling in JROTC. He is a 1952 graduate of Texas A&M University, where he served in the Corps of Cadets and the prestigious Ross Volunteers--the Texas Governor's Honor Guard. In his senior year, he married his high school sweetheart, Peggy Joyce Ward. Following graduation he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. During his career, he was stationed in Texas, Georgia, Alabama, California, Japan, Missouri, Arkansas, Hawai'i, Virginia, Germany and Florida. He retired as a senior colonel after 31 years of service. In the course of his career, he served in the Viet Nam War as a navigator on RF-4C reconnaissance aircraft. He was awarded one of his two Distinguished Flying Crosses during a sortie when his aircraft was hit by a surface-to-air missile, piercing a wing and destroying flight controls. Despite the damage to the aircraft, he was able to complete the mission and return the crew safely to base. Later in his career, he served as Chief of Air Force Intelligence at Central Command at MacDill AFB, Florida. He retired to Arkansas in 1989 to be close to his family. He was active in Rotary International as a Paul Harris Fellow, the Air Force Association, the VFW, Toastmasters, the Former Students Association of Texas A&M, the Lions Club, Sons of the American

Revolution, the Mayflower Society, and the Holland Society of New York. He and his wife, Peggy, enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends, especially those at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Peggy; daughter, Linda Kay White, and her husband, Newton, of Hot Springs; daughter, Rene' Starr, and her husband, Joe, of Little Rock; a son, Dr. David Duane Vandenberg, of Hot Springs; and a son, CDR James Nielson Vandenberg, of Arlington, Virginia, and Little Rock and his wife, Diane S. Vandenberg. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Emily Chase White (predeceased), John Gabriel Starr, Matthew Cooper White, Matthew Killian Vandenberg, Kathryn Grace Starr, and Emelie Adeline Vandenberg. He is also survived by a brother-in-law, Merle (Buck) Ward and his wife, Lynda, of Conroe, Texas; sister-in-law Julia Ward of Rolla, Missouri; and four nephews: James (Skip) Ward of Houston, Texas; Larry Ward of Wexford, Pennsylvania; Bill Ward of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Major David Ward of Ft. Riley, Kansas. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 228 Spring Street, Hot Springs, on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 at 11 a.m., officiated by the Rev. C.B. Baker. An Air Force fly-over will be held around noon over Hot Springs to mark Col. Vandenberg's service and devotion to his country. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1117, Hot Springs, AR 71902, or your favorite charity.

Tribute Wall

F5

“ My condolences to Mrs Vandenberg and all the family and friends. Duane was a classmate and a life long Aggie. I so enjoyed his e-mail from time to time. Having been thru Hot Springs many times, I did not know you all lived there until after we moved from Mountain Home.. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know. Frank Dougharty

Frank Dougharty 52 - January 09, 2012 at 09:51 AM

WH

“ Peggy and family – I am saddened to hear of the passing of a true American Hero!! Duane was a good friend and always had the big smile when I would see him. Serving with him in the SAR was an honor and a privilege. I heard of his sickness a few days ago and you have been in my prayers and thoughts. Duane always had sound advice for me and was honest to a fault in all matters. God made few like our Duane and I will miss him dearly. Peggy please share this with your children – I know what it means to lose a father and the pain and hurt is too real – but the memories and good thoughts of Duane will help them during this time. I know how proud Duane was of his children and grandchildren!! I would be there tomorrow but I have a doctor’s appointment and cannot be there. God Bless you and yours Regards, W. Danny Honnoll Past President ARSSSAR Past AR SAR Color Guard Cmdr ATM SCV870-926-2985

W. Danny Honnoll - January 03, 2012 at 02:58 PM

JA

“ Peggy and family - I was saddened to hear of the loss of this great American and will be with you in prayer in the days ahead. Many happy memories abound of his voice, zeal for life and the community. You both gave me a clock many years ago and it continues to mark time in my house. Respectfully, John J. Archibald

John J. Archibald - January 01, 2012 at 11:25 AM

RN

“ Dear Rene" and family, Please know how sorry we are for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Rissa and Amanda Nettles

Rissa and Amanda Nettles - December 31, 2011 at 06:37 PM

NB

“ Dear Vandenberg Family, I was so sad to hear about the death of Mr. Vandenberg. I have such fond memories of him when I visited Austin in the summers. He was a great host, making sure I had a good time. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Nancy Workman Ballard - December 31, 2011 at 10:17 AM

FW

“ Linda & family, Mrs Vandenerg- Just to let you know you are in our prayers. We enjoyed the opportunity to work with Duane, and will miss seeing him. May God comfort all of you at this time. Frank Warren and staff of Tri-Lakes PT

Frank Warren - December 28, 2011 at 05:17 PM