



LTCOL John Means US Airforce (Ret.)

December 11, 1918 - April 13, 2020

LTCOL John A. Means US Air Force (Ret.), 101, of Summerville, husband of the late Wilma Ashworth Means, passed away on April 13, 2020 at Lexington Medical.

Family and friends are invited to attend his visitation on Thursday, June 18, 2020 from 2 o'clock to 3 o'clock at James A. Dyal Funeral Home. A funeral service will begin at 3 o'clock. Entombment will follow at Dorchester Memory Gardens Mausoleum, 11000 Dorchester Rd., Summerville, SC 29485.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children at www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org, Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org, or AirForceAid Society/The Official Charity of the Air Force at www.afas.org.

John was born on a farm in McLouth, Kansas on December 11, 1918. He was the son of the late Charlie and Jenny Means. In his lifetime he witnessed many remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have transformed the world. He enlisted in the US Army Air Corp in 1942 and become a pilot in 1943. He was an instructor in advance flying school in Texas. He was a squadron commander overseeing some 2,000 basic trainees. On October 3, 1944 he married his beloved wife Wilma Ashworth Means, and together they had three children. In 1950 he was called to active duty and was deployed to Korea as part of the 6147th

squadron, known as the Mosquitoes. John served in Washington DC with the Special Air Missions (SAM) unit, flying dignitaries at home and abroad in Air Force Two. During his time in the SAM outfit he flew many dignitaries including Herbert Hoover alive and carried his body to his final resting place, Richard Nixon, as vice president, and the notable Charles Lindberg. During Vietnam he flew cargo transports. While stationed in Charleston he flew C130s all over the world. He then retired from the military in 1965 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and moved his family to Summerville, SC. After returning to civilian life he worked as a mechanical engineer at Avcco and as a machine operator at Bosch. He owned and operated his own service station. John worked as a salesman with Hawthorne Aviation. He also flew as a private pilot for several local companies. He served his community as a member of the Masons for over 75 years, Scottish Rite, Shriners, and president of the Lions Club of Summerville. He also served on the board of Directors as Vice President of Charleston Mental Health and was an active booster of the Summerville High School Marching Band. He was a founding member and Elder of Dorchester Presbyterian Church. After his wife, Wilma's, passing he was blessed to find another love in his companion Maureen.

Survivors include: Companion and love of his life for the past 10 years, Maureen Gibbons of Rockland, MA; his daughters: Jodi Means Weathers (Bert) of Columbia and Donna Means Fox (Keith) of Winnsboro; seven grandchildren: Jeremy Good (Angela) of Mt. Pleasant, Natalie G. Sumner (Brian) of Mt. Pleasant, Chesley Good (Alyssa) of Columbia, Lindsay Means Domrese (Chris) of Charleston, Carson Fox (Gina) of Greenville, Carey Weathers Warner (Ralph) of Charlotte, NC, and Luke Weathers of St. George; eight great grandchildren: AnnaClaire and Miller Good, Peyton Sumner, Delaney Rutledge Good, Finnley and Kessler Domrese, Tyler and Tanner Warner, and Drake Weathers; seven nieces and nephews: Lucille Smith, Betty Petrie, Mary Petrie, Larry Means, Jim Means, Sharon Farmer, and Ruth Diller; and Maureen Gibbons daughters: Dawn(Bob) and Laurie(Stephen); five

grandchildren: Joseph, Jackie(Keith) and Sarah Campbell, Daniel and Brendan White; two great grandchildren Kaiden and Carter Hawkins. In addition to his beloved wife Wilma and his parents he was predeceased by: son, John "Steve" Means; great grandson, Leighton King Good; sister, Mildred Means Petrie; brother, Barney Means; and three nephews: Sam Petrie, John Petrie, and Jim Petrie.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at www.jamesadyal.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040.

Cemetery Details

Dorchester Memory Gardens Mausoleum

11000 Dorchester Road
Summerville, SC 29485

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home Chapel
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483

Funeral Service

JUN 18. 3:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home
303 S. Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-4040
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

Tribute Wall



“ James A Dyal Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of LTCOL John Means US Airforce (Ret.)



James A Dyal Funeral Home - June 18, 2020 at 10:25 AM

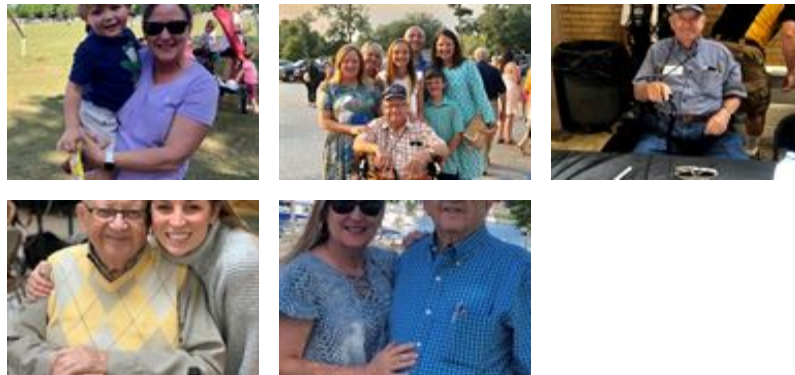


“ LTCOL John Means US Airforce (Ret.)

September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



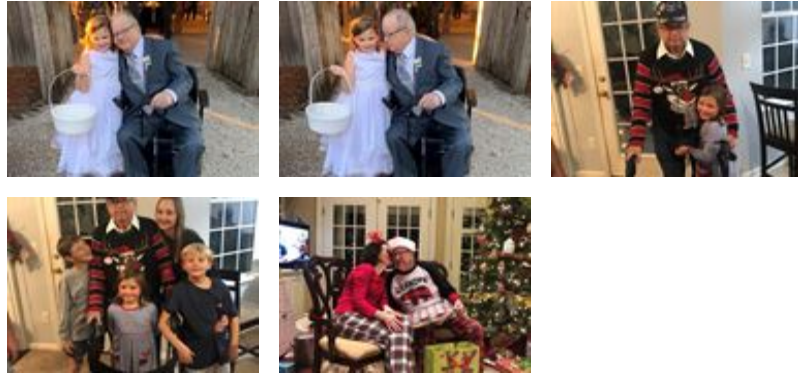
“ 20 files added to the album Life Tributes



James A Dyal Funeral Home - June 18, 2020 at 12:56 PM



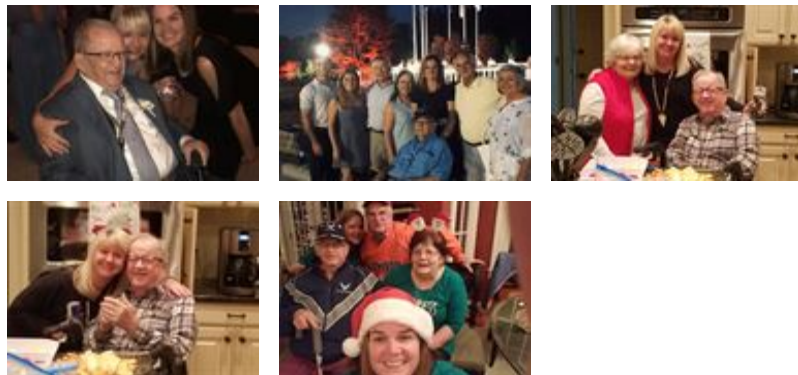
“ 9 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



James A Dyal Funeral Home - June 18, 2020 at 11:52 AM



“ 120 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



James A Dyal Funeral Home - June 18, 2020 at 08:53 AM



“ *Colonel Means was always happy to see us kids as teenagers at his house in Salisbury acres. He was happy to spend time and talk with us and of course try and keep us safe! Another giver to all around him has passed to a better place. Prayers to all his family and friends!*

robert pratt - June 16, 2020 at 08:22 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of LTCOL John Means US Airforce (Ret.).*



June 15, 2020 at 09:37 AM



“ *Kirk & I are sorry that we will be out of town & unable to attend John's celebration of life service. We will always remember the special friendship we shared with John. He had a such a wonderful sense of humor which we thoroughly enjoyed. Many people seem to give up as they age, but John's light-hearted outlook on life always amazed & delighted us. He will be missed. Kirk & Pam Stewart*

Pam Stewart - June 14, 2020 at 05:09 PM



*Kirk & Pam,
Thank you so much for placing this note of sympathy!
Bob*

Bob Dickie - June 14, 2020 at 05:57 PM



“ *My sympathy to the family and friends.
Bob Dickie
Strategic Air Command
Việt Nam Era*

bob - June 09, 2020 at 04:29 PM

DP

“ Donna, sorry for your loss, your father was a great man.

Donna Petrowski

Donna Petrowski - May 13, 2020 at 01:27 PM

CH

“ Hello.... my name is Chuck Hoepner a retired AF MSgt from SAM.

I am the Heritage Program Coordinator for the SAM Fox Assoc. and am sorry to hear of your loss. One of our members forwarded me the Colonels OB.


The Col. Was a member during a time when SAM was growing into what it is today thanks to the men like the Col. I am guessing that he was in the 1298th MATS.

When you will have his service please let us know.

Sincerely

Chuck Hoepner. Choepner64@gmail.com. 301. 643-9425

chuck hoepner - April 23, 2020 at 08:02 AM


Raymond
Vold

“ John was a member of our Mosquito Group. I enjoyed being with John at many reunions. I will cherish the memories of our time together with he and Maureen. Rest in Peace Friend.

We miss you. Ray Vold

Raymond Vold - April 20, 2020 at 02:39 PM



Raymond
Vold

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Raymond Vold - April 20, 2020 at 02:33 PM