



Lt. Col. Norma V. Breedlove

April 17, 1928 - June 6, 2022

Norma G. Vanderheide was born April 17, 1928 at Owanka, South Dakota. She graduated from high school at Emerson, Nebraska and enlisted in the United States Air Force at Rapid City, South Dakota on February 28, 1949.

She received basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas and technical training as a clerk-typist at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base Wyoming, before proceeding to her first assignment in the Office of the Director, Women in the Air Force Headquarters at the Pentagon. In addition to her clerical duties, she often models the woman's first blue uniform for television, publicity releases and official publications of the Air Force.

She attended Air Force Officer Candidate School, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas graduating with distinction in Class 52-A on March 21, 1952. The following year, she received a regular commission.

During her career, she received an Administrative Officer, Personnel Officer, Protocol Office, Air Transportation Officer and Transportation Staff Officer. She attended the University of Maryland at numerous campuses, majoring in history and government and politics. Her overseas assignments included Chaumont Air Base, France; Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and RAF Mildenhall, England. She retired in the grade of Lieutenant Colonel at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas May 1, 1971. Her decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

On June 19, 1965 she was married to Lieutenant Commander James D. Breedlove, United States Navy, a naval aviator. They resided in San Antonio, Texas.

Following her retirement from the Air Forces, she was employed by the United Services Automobile Association, San Antonio, Texas for 12 ½ years. During which time she re-wrote in simple language many of the insurance policy forms used by the USAA Life Insurance Company. In 1975 she and other formed an association of Air Force women Line Officers. She served as President.

She will be buried with her husband Donald "Don" Breedlove husband at the Sam Houston National VA Cemetery in Texas. He as a Naval Officer and flew from 1941 to 1968 and he was the first Navy pilot to fly the largest transport plane, The Hercules C-130 and he trained at the factory when they produced the C-130s and was sent all over the world to train pilots how to fly the C-130 transports. He also was assigned to fly the dignitaries, celebrities, generals and admirals. He logged over 13,000 hours flying.

Tribute Wall

TM

“ My deepest condolences to the loved ones of Norma Breedlove. We were blessed to know she and James and their amazing family of friends at beautiful home in Garden Ridge, Texas in the early 2000s. They're reunited for all eternity. All who knew them were blessed beyond measure. They'll be eternally remember and missed. Praying comfort for their family and loved ones from our Lord Jesus in the years ahead.
Tracy Madl

Tracy Madl - December 15, 2022 at 06:28 AM

MC

“ I was saddened hearing of Norma passing, but it was her time.. Hope she will be happier in another world..

Margo Cox - July 09, 2022 at 03:36 PM

MC

“ Norma was somewhat good person, but a jealous old lady.. especially when she saw a beautiful younger women.. Norma was insecure!

Margo Cox - July 09, 2022 at 03:34 PM

KB

This is her granddaughter and your remark is completely uncalled for. This is to leave memories and not to leave nasty, bitter remarks. You should be ashamed of yourself and remove these statements.

Kimberly Breedlove Bryant - July 18, 2022 at 06:24 PM

MA

Norma was married to my Uncle Don. Kimberly, I am guessing you are Jim and Sue's daughter. I still hear from your Mom at Christmas.

Mary Arredondo - May 12, 2023 at 08:07 PM

SB

“ *Norma was my late husband's (James R. Breedlove) stepmother. Jim loved her dearly and was able to spend some time with her in August 2013 shortly before his passing when she came to Georgia to visit. We spent several visits with Norma and Don at their ranch through the years. She was a wonderful, caring and thoughtful woman who always made us feel welcome. I am so very saddened by her passing and know that she and Don are now together in heaven. Much Love, Susan Breedlove, Kennesaw GA*

Susan Breedlove - June 10, 2022 at 06:47 PM

JS

She was wonderful and never unkind. She was my Aunt and we loved and admired her.

Jo Schanaman - April 20, 2023 at 07:26 PM