



John F. Stubbs, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force Retired, passed away on Nov. 7, 2015, at Harton Regional Medical Center. He served 23 years in the U.S. military beginning in the Army Active Reserves in 1951. He concluded his military service in retirement at Arnold Air Force Base in 1974.

He was born in 1930 in Hammond, Indiana. He graduated from Roosevelt High School where he participated in athletics and the band. He attended Purdue University where he was a member of the band. Colonel Stubbs completed college at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson Air Force Base earning a B.S. and M.S. in aerospace mechanical engineering. He was honored by selection to Tau Beta Pi national honor society.

He entered the Air Force in 1953 as an aviation cadet where he was selected as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Aviation Cadet Program and commissioned second lieutenant in 1954. He attended Electronic Countermeasure School at Keesler Air Force Base and was assigned to the Ninth Bomb Squad at Carswell Air Force Base as a communications officer. Colonel Stubbs served on a B-36 aircrew as a navigator while also serving as a Communication and ECM officer. He graduated in single engine pilot program in 1959 and returned to Carswell Air Force Base as a KC-135 pilot.

Later stationed in Naha, Okinawa, Japan, flying C-130s, Colonel Stubbs accumulated over 700 hours of combat time flying 649 missions in Vietnam. Afterward, Colonel Stubbs was assigned to Arnold Engineering Development Center as a test director in von Karman Facility. He also served in his assignment at Arnold as the executive officer, facility support director, and commander of the Air Force Base Support Squadron.

After retirement in 1974 from the Air Force he served in administration at the University of Tennessee Space Institute. In 1976 he joined Project Management Corporation providing support on the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Plant Project. In 1979 he joined Systems Development Corporation providing technical support to the Centrifuge Enrichment and Solvent Refined Coal Projects. In 1980 with OAO Corporation he was named program director in support of the strategic oil reserve in New Orleans. In 1985 he joined Schneider Services International and returned to Arnold Air Force Base as deputy general manager for mission support.

He retired as general manager in 1996. Thereafter, he acquired the land, designed and developed the Chandelle Airpark in Tullahoma where he resided. Colonel Stubbs was very active in community service. In the 1970s he organized a summer swim program providing opportunity for area children to participate in activities at Woods Reservoir. He also served as

an assistant scoutmaster with Troop 303. Beginning in the 1990s he was involved in the Young Eagles Aviation Chapter introducing aviation to nearly 600 children.

Colonel Stubbs was very involved with the Tullahoma Science Museum. He was also a fellow member of the Tullahoma Rotary Club and served as president. In 2013 the Beechcraft Heritage Museum honored him with their Merit Award for his distinguished service in aviation preservation. Among his decorations are the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

In Addition to a stellar career John was a wonderful person who loved God, his wife, his boys and extended family and his many friends. He and his wife Betty enjoyed Gourmet cooking and entertaining. He enjoyed fishing with his boys and golfing with friends. And John was always at peace cruising altitudes through the sky.

John was a member of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Catherine Stubbs; three sisters, Betty Adamchick, Rae Jean Gozdecki, and Catherine Leyden. He is survived by Betty, his wife of 60 years; two sons, John Ray of Memphis and wife Tisa, and James David of Brooklyn, New York, and wife Laura, and four grandchildren, Jessica and Jody, and Finnian and Calder.

Courtesy of Kilgore Funeral Home – Nov 2015