



**Ronald Walter Spjut, Col, USAF (retired)**

Ronald "Ron" Walter Spjut died on June 29, 2012 after struggling for twelve years with colon cancer. He realized his wish to live long enough to see his grandchildren grow up.

Ron was born on March 29, 1938 in Everett, Washington, the son of Walter and Frances Hoover Spjut. Ron's father died when Ron was 11 years old, and while his mother tried to hold the family together, she was ultimately unsuccessful. Ron moved from place-to-place, back and forth between his grandparents, other relatives, and his mother. Finally, in 1955, he moved into the home of Leonard and Cora Hammond, parents of his close friend, W. Frank Hammond, where he lived for nearly two years.

Ron was a noted student leader and athlete at Everett High School. He was captain of the 1955 football team and is listed on the EHS All Star Team of 1950-1959. He played in the East-West All Star Game in 1956. After graduating from EHS, he attended Everett Community College, pursuing his academic interests and playing football. He transferred to Western Washington University and completed a bachelor of arts in education in 1960. He began teaching in the Mukilteo School District that same year.

Ron received kind and generous support during his college years from John M. "Jack" Bergstrom and his wife, Virginia. Jack, owner of Rainbow Tire Service, employed Ron whenever possible - during school vacations, weekends, and holidays-providing him the means to go to school. Ron stayed at Jack and Virginia's home when he was in Everett working.

Ron married Judith Johnson in 1961, and he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1962 in its intelligence branch. Judy made him the warm and loving home he had longed for since the death of his father. The Air Force provided him the opportunity to apply his organizational and leadership skills, boundless energy, and remarkable creativity.

Ron moved steadily up through the Air Force officer ranks, taking on positions of ever increasing responsibility. He served in Viet Nam in 1969-1970 as Target Analyst, Headquarters, 7th Air Force, Viet Nam. Subsequent assignments included Director, Intelligence Plans and Programs, Headquarters, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Chief of Intelligence, 48th Tactical Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom; Director, Intelligence Applications, Headquarters, Tactical Air Command, Langley AFB; and Commander, Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center, Lowry AFB, Colorado. He retired at the rank of Colonel in 1988.

Being avid golfers and having two children in the region, Ron and Judy made their retirement home in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in 1989. Soon, however, Ron went back into teaching and taught for ten years at Whittemore Park Middle School, in Conway, South Carolina.

Ron is survived by his wife, Judith "Judy" Johnson Spjut, of Myrtle Beach; three daughters, Deborah Jean Reddy (Thomas) of Hampton, Virginia, Darbi Lynne Dillon of Dayton, Ohio, and Susan Bellemy (Ross) of Richmond, Virginia; six grandchildren (to whom Ron was always "Boompa"), Caitlin Reddy, Mollie Reddy, Tyler Dillon, Kelsey Dillon, Aaron Bellamy, and Andrea Bellamy; and one brother, Robert Spjut, of Santa Barbara, California.

Ron was preceded in death by his father and mother and a son, Ronald Walter Spjut, Jr. Ron lived a very productive and meaningful life. He had to overcome more obstacles than most people, and he succeeded, in fine style. He did well, and he did good. He loved his wife, children, and grandchildren. He was a splendid teammate and a great friend.

He will never be forgotten.