



## Major General Anthony W. Potts (USA)

January 17, 1964 - July 25, 2023

Major General Anthony W. Potts (USA) of Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD passed away on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. Adored husband of Jennifer Potts; cherished son of Barbara Potts and the late Wayne Potts; loving father of Taylor Potts and Cynthia Potts (Sam Bartlett); brother of Cathy Richard (Joe), Laura Marrs (Shawn) and Travis Potts (Chanin); beloved by loyal pups Sarge and Sam. His love of others, passion for life well lived and infectious laugh will truly be missed by many.

Tony died in an aircraft accident after a lifetime of service to the nation, the Army, his family and friends.

The son of an Air Force Master Sergeant, he was commissioned as an Army Aviator in 1986 after graduating from Murray State University. He flew AH-64 Apache Helicopters in West Germany during the Cold War, and he served a combat tour as an aviator in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He later taught incoming pilots at the Army's flight training center.

He transferred to the Acquisition Corps in 2000, where he led development of Aviation, Soldier, and Tactical Systems, and he made numerous deployments to the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan as an acquisition officer. The Army selected him to command positions five times, most recently serving as Program Executive Officer, Command, Control and Communication (Tactical).

His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Valor, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. He was a Senior Army Aviator, and wore the Army's Air Assault Badge.

In addition to flying, Tony's personal passions included scuba-diving, riding his Harley Davidson, riding his quad in the dunes, skiing, fishing, the Kentucky Wildcats, the Atlanta Braves and the Dallas Cowboys. He enjoyed running and athletics especially with Soldiers. Most of all, he loved experiencing life with his bride, Jen, as well as time spent with his children, Taylor and Cynthia, his entire family and friends.

He cared about people and will leave behind a legacy of those for whom he led, helped, mentored, and prayed. He epitomized servant leadership, committed to building community and individual growth. He was a talented speaker, but a better listener. He was able to combine professional competence with personal humility. He possessed deep personal faith yet was equally committed to the defense of our Nation and service to our Soldiers. These dichotomies formed the complexity of his character and enabled his success.

Visitation will be held on Monday, August 28, 2023 at Jefferson Funeral Chapel 5755 Castlewellan Dr. Alexandria, VA 22315, from 3-5 & 6-8PM. Funeral Service held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Alexandria, VA 22308 on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 10AM. Interment immediately following Arlington National Cemetery at 1PM

In lieu of flowers and gifts, memorial contributions may be made in his memory to For His Kingdom Missions <https://forhiskingdom.org> or Building Homes for Heroes <https://www.buildinghomesforheroes.org>



# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

1 Memorial Drive  
Arlington, VA 22211

# Previous Events

## Viewing

**AUG 28.** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 971-7400  
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

## Viewing

**AUG 28.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 971-7400  
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

## Funeral Service

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AUG 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1301 Collingwood Rd  
Alexandria, VA 22308

## Graveside Service

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AUG 29. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery  
1 Memorial Drive  
Arlington, VA 22211

# Tribute Wall

AA

“ Jennifer - We were neighbors for your short time in Massachusetts, and enjoyed getting to know you and Tony. We hold your entire family in our hearts for the very sad loss of MG Potts.

Amanda Kato and Lynn Anderson - September 08, 2023 at 12:07 AM

MC

“ Jennifer and family, I was shocked and saddened to hear of Tony's passing. He was an incredible person and soldier. Jenn, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Mike Callahan

MICHAEL JAMES CALLAHAN - September 02, 2023 at 04:13 PM

DN

“ MG Potts, brought joy to work. It was easy to want to go the extra mile and add the extra touch to an assignment. Even then he would have ideas to make it better. Recall one assignment that seemed a bit of a reach and not fully formed. Iteration after iteration crossed his desk until he was satisfied. Turns out he would brief this work to the Undersecretary and take us with him to take on questions. Two things were obvious: 1) he was taking the work we did and elevating it to the most senior leaders in the Army and 2) he showed us how he prepared to present to his bosses and the same feelings of vulnerability going before his bosses that we felt when we briefed to him. Special man, great fondness. He will be missed. Don Nachtwey



Donald Nachtwey - August 30, 2023 at 10:48 AM

BC

“ Tony & I were longtime friends. I worked with him and went to college with him. We maintained contact through 30+years. My heart breaks as I have never had a friend like Tony. I was always proud of him and boasted and always let him know he is so unique and it was an honor for him to have been such a valuable friend to me regardless how different we both were. He accepted me. My love goes to Jen, Barbara, Kathy, Laura, and Travis. I will forever remember the Tony from McDonalds and college and the mischief we caused. Love you Tony always! Your buddy, Barry Canter

barry canter - August 22, 2023 at 06:52 PM

MA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Meisi Amaral - August 22, 2023 at 10:35 AM

DS

“ Only talked to him once but he was a kind and thoughtful gentleman.

Doug Silverman - August 21, 2023 at 01:22 PM

DF

“ One of Mayfield Ky Finest. Always Thankful for His service to our Country! God's strength to His entire Family!

Danny Foy - August 21, 2023 at 12:29 PM

TO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Todd - August 20, 2023 at 10:33 PM

TO

“ As I think back, I struggle to reconcile the versions of Tony that I knew. The first is the child who played hide-and-seek in our grandmother’s house and aggravated his siblings. The second is the young man - high school, college, and father to Taylor and Cynthia. The last is the statesman, transformed by the refined essence of maturity. Yet all three share common characteristics. He loved people, whether childhood friends or recent acquaintances. He appreciated hard work, finding joy in both the simple and the complex; and he loved adventure, even from the earliest age. I’ll miss the playful sarcasm, the knowing smile and nod...

Todd - August 20, 2023 at 10:32 PM

MS

“ Michael S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Major General Anthony W. Potts (USA).



Michael S. - August 20, 2023 at 06:59 PM

WR

“ I / We have so many fantastic memories with Tony (and Jen): flying together, Scuba diving, riding motorcycles, zip lining on Jamaica are just a few reflected in the attached photos. Most importantly, Tony was my "brother-from-another-mother", and my best friend.

Over a decade ago, we spent countless long hours in the Pentagon working on the Army's solution to sequestration. Shortly after that, Tony demonstrated genuine and courageous friendship when a false accusation ended my Army career. Lot's of senior Army officials who claimed to model the Army values, and other folks who said they were friends disappeared for fear of collateral damage. Not Tony, although he potentially had lots to lose. He was a colonel on the brink of selection to general but he never faltered or waived in his support and friendship.

That friendship only grew stronger over the years, and I miss it greatly. But as I think about Tony, I'm so proud of the way he lived his life: he lived every day to the fullest; he put people first and impacted so many lives in a lasting and positive way; and finally, he modeled love of God, country and family first in everything that he did. Tony - for now, I reluctantly have the flight controls down here; but I know next time we fly together, you'll be the IP.



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**Wil Riggins** - August 18, 2023 at 12:08 PM

TW

*To the Potts family in Kentucky, we love you all and will keep you in our hearts and prayers.*

*Tom and Jill Williams*

*Grandparents of Emerson Potts Hendrickson.*

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**Tom and Jill Williams** - August 20, 2023 at 05:14 PM

KG

“ *To the Potts family, the loss of Tony was much too soon. We are all hurting and just want you to know we all are here for you in any way we can support you. Your Huntsville family will continue to offer our thoughts and prayers. Tony was a good man and will be greatly missed by us all. God Bless! Kevin Garnes*

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**Kevin Garnes** - August 15, 2023 at 04:11 PM

JP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**John and Jan Phillips** - August 15, 2023 at 01:18 PM

JP

*Picture of Tony officiating our 25th Year Vow Renewal.*

*Tony and I flew together during Desert Storm, and to have him officiate our vow renewal all these decades later was a full circle moment for both of us.*

*Tony will be overwhelmingly missed by not only his wife Jennifer and his family, but by Jan and I, and all the Ghostriders as well. Rest in Peace, Tony.*

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**John and Jan Phillips** - August 15, 2023 at 01:19 PM

DK

*From De  
Dennis and  
Ber Kurland I hope his journey to heaven is a great journey for a great  
man*

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**Dennis and ber Kurland** - August 16, 2023 at 03:57 PM

SD

“As the obituary says, Tony was Servant Leader. While I never had the chance to work with him in the military, it came through in other ways.

We moved to Fort Belvoir in the summer of 2020 and were fortunate enough to live on the "circle" (Mackenzie Ct). Tony and Jen were, of course, welcoming and helped us all learn about living on Belvoir. The Fort has many trees, and apparently no arborists, so on a relatively frequent basis a good size tree would fall. When that happened nearby, the "Mackenzie Court Lumberjacks" would go to work, mostly to secure wood for weekend fire pits. As you might expect, Tony did most of the work, and the rest of us got most of the wood.

Tony, having lived on Belvoir for a number of years, also said the saw would come in handy during storms when the trees had a habit of falling on the roads. Inspired by his ability to dispatch fallen trees, he inspired to get my own saw.

It would come in handy in January of 2022 when high winds and heavy, wet snow toppled trees and power lines. Hundreds were stuck on I-95 overnight and thousands were without power. In our neighborhood, several trees were down, including one that blocked the road to the main part of base. Tony grabbed his truck and saws and we loaded up to go take care of it. In addition to clearing the road, we were also clearing the driveway of a Colonel who was completely blocked in. We started by cutting and clearing the branches of the big cedar that fell. We began by cutting and moving all the limbs off the road and onto the lawn of the house that was blocked. After clearing most of the limbs, the occupant of the house, an Army Colonel came out. I don't think he recognized us because of all the gear. He explained that he had worked the previous year to get new grass to grow in his yard and asked if we could move all the branches to a different location. It was a request and not directive, but I was not exactly sure what Major General Potts would say. But, Tony Potts paused for just a second, he smiled that big

*smile, and said "Sure, no problem."*

*I don't think the Colonel had any idea who he had asked to move those branches a second time. As it turned out, he asked Tony Potts who is a good and decent man, who, true to his calling to serve his Country, was honored to serve those he led, serve those he worked with, and to help those who needed a hand.*

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



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**S.L. Davis** - August 14, 2023 at 11:15 PM

RO

“*Memories from long time ago. Jennifer and family, Tony talked about you frequently during our trip to the other side of the world. Prayers and sympathy to you and the family. Though I only met Tony during trip to Afghanistan, he made trip enjoyable, and we made the best of it. His focus was on troops and supporting them, and of course the family. God bless, rest in peace brother.*



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**Ron** - August 14, 2023 at 12:34 PM

JL

“ Tony and I attended flight school together in 87-88 , For a short period during combat skills we were stock buddies. We both attended the same church in Ozark, AL and on regular occasions car pooled to class in either of our Mustangs. Our first child was born Sept 87 and I have a picture somewhere of Tony bottle feeding him at 3 weeks old. Although I have not spoken to him in decades we had many great memories together. My Condolences to the family.

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**Jon Lund** - August 13, 2023 at 02:30 PM

JL

*"Stick Buddies"*

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**Jon Lund** - August 13, 2023 at 02:31 PM

SJ

“ Jennifer and family, may you be comforted by the love, joy and laughter Tony brought into your lives. It was an honor knowing him. He may be gone from this earth, but lives on through your hearts and love.

*Love and friendship always.*

*Scott, Sydnee, Seth and Erica (Freeman) Juneac*

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**Sydnee Juneac** - August 12, 2023 at 12:36 AM

GS

“ *Jen and family,  
Tony was a hard working, giving, loving man and a patriot. His life  
was an adventure. Sincere condolences for your loss.*

*The measure of life is not it's duration but it's donation - Carrie Ten  
Bloom*

*Gail & Jeff*

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**GSM** - August 11, 2023 at 06:46 PM

LA

*Loving him was easy, letting him go is so heartbreaking. I have many  
memories to reminence on, but I would rather it be in person. Since  
God chose otherwise, I will remember how much he was loved by his  
family ,and me. Aunt Loudean Austin*

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**Loudean Austin** - August 11, 2023 at 09:05 PM

JG

*Loudean I never met this young man but I remember you, Wayne and  
Becky well. Wayne and I were both postal workers. He in Mayfield, I in  
Paducah then later to Gulf Shores. Your nephew must have been one  
of our country's finest and I know he made the family proud especially  
Wayne. So sorry to hear he had to die this way. Love to all Tony's  
family and to all of you my distant cousins.*

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**Judy Green** - August 20, 2023 at 09:09 AM

CT

“ March 18, 2023 was a blessing to our family. Our daughter Jennah got married and she wanted Tony to marry her and Sean. Tony was an amazing public speaker and some what of a comedian. As expected, Tony did a fantastic job. I will treasure this memory forever. I will never forget his laugh and smile. May God wrap Tony and his family in love and comfort. My sincere condolences.  
Christine Totty



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**Christine Totty** - August 08, 2023 at 06:48 PM

TS

“ My husband and I met Tony and Jennifer one evening at Beth and Butch’s home. It was their banter and laughter while regaling us with the tale of some latest (mis)adventure that we are remembering. We can’t begin to imagine the families grief at this time, but we are sending our prayers in the hope that in time their memories will help them to smile again. I was sent a poem when my father died, the end of which I have never forgotten... “ So do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there ... I did not die.” With much love, Terry & Steve Steik

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**Terry Steik** - August 08, 2023 at 06:12 PM