



Orville M. Meek, Jr.

March 31, 1923 - January 2, 2015

CDR. ORVILLE MARCELLIOUS MEEK JR.

Orville M. Meek Jr. was born in Los Angeles CA on March 31, 1923, the eldest of 3 children born to Orville M. and Antonette Meek Sr. He graduated from Alexander Hamilton High School in January 1941. He joined the Navy in 1942 and became a commissioned Officer and Naval Aviator in 1944.

CDR Meek earned an Engineering Degree from UCLA, a Graduate Degree in Electronic Engineering from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey CA, as well as numerous other certifications while in the Navy including Anti Submarine Warfare Tactics, Defense Weapons Project Management, and Naval Justice.

During a distinguished career in the Navy CDR Meek was a carrier pilot, squadron commander, and a flight instructor. He flew numerous planes including Douglas Torpedo Bombers, Grumman TBF Avenger, Chance Vaught F4U Corsair, Grumman Bearcat, Grumman JRF5 Goose, Lockheed PV2 Harpoon, Douglas A-1 Skyraider, and many more. He served in the Pacific Fleet primarily in Japan, Korea, Philippines, Laos and Viet Nam. He served on the USS Princeton (CV 37), USS Badoeng Strait (CVE 116), USS Ticonderoga (CVA 14), and USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31). CDR Meek retired from the Navy in 1967 from the Naval Air Systems Command in Washington D.C.

CDR Meek spent several years after his retirement from the Navy with Rockwell International in Columbus OH where he worked on design and

advanced missile systems for the United States military. After leaving Rockwell, he and wife Dorothy started ODM Builders Inc., a custom home building company. They operated the business for several years and built numerous beautiful homes in central Ohio. In 1983 Orville and Dorothy moved to Kent WA where CDR Meek was employed by Boeing Aerospace Defense to work in conceptual design projects for missile systems. When he retired in 1994, he pursued his favorite hobbies and interests in Washington State where the couple lived for 30 years until moving to The Fairfax at Fort Belvoir in Fort Belvoir VA in May of 2013.

Throughout his early years, military career, professional career, and well into his retirement years, Orville was an enthusiastic outdoorsman. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends engaging in hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and virtually anything associated with being close to nature. He and his family took numerous trips into the outdoors throughout the United States. He was especially fond of hunting wild turkey, grouse, deer, elk, and fishing for trout.

He also enjoyed gardening and cooking. As an accomplished chef, he would share many recipes with the signature line "World Famous Backwoods Bull Cook". Many friends and family are familiar with the oft told story about how he was given the famed Caesar Salad recipe directly from inventor, Caesar Cardini, while dining at Caesar's restaurant many years ago.

CDR Meek's life experiences were also more than his career achievements and "leisure" activities. While stationed in Japan with his family, he started the first troop of The Boy Scouts of America in Atsugi to help boys on the Naval base learn life skills from the adventures of scouting. While stationed in the Philippines he collected books and school supplies, which he was able to drop from his airplane to a remote missionary school he had seen on a training flight. He continued a friendship with the school headmaster for many years after the book drop.

CDR Meek passed away peacefully on January 2, 2015 at age 91 years 9 months in the company of family. Orville was preceded in death by his parents

and sister, Dolores "Chickie" Welch of Redding CA.

He is survived by; his wife of 41 years, Dorothy Birkbeck Meek of Ft. Belvoir VA; and 8 children; Christine Beighley (Charles) of Poway, CA; Rebecca Haddad (Nabil) of Missoula, MT; Orville M. "Skip" Meek (Mary Catherine) of Big Timber, MT; Raymond D. Meek (Julia) of Redmond, WA; Joseph C. Meek (Theresa) of Helena, MT; Janellen Frantz (Robert) of Annapolis MD; Marc Ragan (Kelly) of Fairfield OH; Matthew C. Ragan (Stacey) of Fairfax, VA; as well as 18 Grandchildren and 4 Great-Grand Children and his sister Mildred Wade (William) of Fresno, CA

Interment with military honors will be on July 29, 2015 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. In lieu of flowers, the family would welcome donations to one of Orville's favorite charities, Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org) or the American Legion. Please sign the Guestbook at www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Orville M. Meek, Jr.*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 09:30 AM



“ *Dorothy I am so sorry to hear of Orrie's passing. He had such a full, active, and wonderful life, doing whatever he wanted. I just wish I could've known him better and spent some time with him. I am very glad you were able to spend 41 short years with him. You deserved it. Hang in there and good luck. Cec*

July 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM