



Richard M. Atchison, COL. USAF (Ret.)

August 19, 1940 - August 4, 2021

Richard MacRae Atchison was born in Northville, Michigan, to Dr. Russell and Ruth Mary Atchison. He grew up in a small Michigan farming community where he learned a lifestyle of excellence and service from his parents. He graduated from Kemper Military School in Boonville, Missouri in 1958 with a passion for flying and joined the Air Force's Aviation Cadet Program in 1961. As a commissioned officer, he lived out his boyhood dreams as an Electronic Warfare Officer, flying B-52s Crome-Dome missions, OV-10 Broncos (Pave Nail) in Vietnam, and F-4G Wild Weasel missions in Europe. Later in his career, he became the HQ USAF Director of Electronic Combat, eventually becoming the Deputy Director of Intelligence (J2) on the Joint Staff which included temporary duty as US Central Command Deputy Director of Intelligence for Operation Desert Storm. While attending Air Command and Staff College, he completed his BS in Management from Troy State University with specialties in Cartography and Labor Relations. His decorations include 2 Legions of Merit, 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, and 13 Air Medals.

Richard Atchison and Barbara Anders were married in June 1964 at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. They have four children, Anne-Marie Mingo (Louis), Scott MacRae Atchison (Suzanne), Scott Michael Atchison (Joanna), and Tony Stackhouse. They also have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His influence went beyond his own family as together he and Barbara

parented with patience, love, and grace over 50 children in the foster care system.

Richard led by example in excellence and service. He served as the president of the Fairfax County Foster Parents Association as well as president of the Belvoir Bowhunters. Retirement gave him more opportunities to serve and it was his great joy to work with Wounded Warriors, adaptive sports, and the Warrior Transition Battalion of Fort Belvoir.

Richard is preceded in death by his brother Russell M. Atchison and his parents. He is survived by his sisters Rhonda M. Atchison Rice and Roxanne M. Casterline.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to Archbishop Carroll High School, 4300 Harewood Rd NE, Washington DC 20017.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Fort Belvoir Main Chapel
5950 12th St
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Tribute Wall



“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard M. Atchison, COL. USAF (Ret.)



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - August 12, 2021 at 04:37 PM

HL

I worked with Rick as a collection manager when he was Deputy J2 on Joint Staff. Tough, fair and intelligent who sought out your thoughts. RIP

Henry J. Lees - August 15, 2021 at 05:20 PM

CM

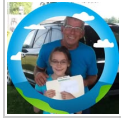
Rick was a hero, my hero, whether in combat over Laos or in the service of his fellow man. He richly earned the accolades he earned and deserved more than ever received. As a historian for our association of Vietnam Forward Air Controllers, he passed on the baton of service and championed the professionalism he instilled in others.

As a NAIL FAC extraordinaire..., many owe their lives to his time over the Ho Chi Minh Trail

Colonel Alva Matheson, Nail 213

Fly Safe! ... my friend

Col Al Matheson - August 18, 2021 at 10:47 AM



I knew Mr. Atchison in the 80s when I was in high school in Germany. He was a man of integrity and respect. He gave everything to his family and the military. He carried himself with honor and love for his family. I think about those year sometimes . Being around him and his family. The places and things that i was grateful to be apart of. So with great respect and solace , may you be happy and carefree until we all meet again. May your family be joyous with the memories and the love and respect you had for them. And from those of us who were lucky enough to have had you in our lives, I say thank you for whom you were and always be. May you shine in the heavens above to watch over us. The world has lost a admirable and memorable man. May your family have peace and love in your loss.

Bill Paveglio - February 03, 2023 at 02:15 PM



“ *Richard M. Atchison, COL. USAF (Ret.)*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *Rick and I were classmates in Aviation Cadet class 62-18 at Harlingen AFB from 1961-1962. We also attended EWO training together following commissioning. Although our paths diverged following training, I always remembered him as an outstanding human being and an excellent officer. My sincere condolences to his family.*

*Bill Rand
LtCol (Ret)
Helix 14/05*

Bill Rand - August 21, 2021 at 10:56 AM

GF

“ I served with Rick at Ramey AFB 1969-1971. My family lived next door to his family. We shared many happy times together. I was a young EWO and Rick was my mentor and trainer. I thank him. Barbara Judith and I will pray for you and your family for peace and healing in this time.

Gayle Fleming - August 17, 2021 at 12:24 PM

RK

“ I was stationed with Rick from 1969-1971 at Ramey AFB, PR where Rick was the Penetration Aids Officer for the 72nd Bomb Wing. He was a dedicated officer committed to the mission and service to the Air Force. As a young Electronic Warfare Officer he was a great mentor and helped guide me in my Air Force career. Barbara and family, I wish you peace and healing as you cope with his loss

Ralph Koontz - August 17, 2021 at 10:19 AM

CH

“ My wife Anne and I knew Rick and Barbara through the Fairfax County Foster Parent's Association many years ago. We fostered mostly infants and young children, and we were in awe of what Rick and Barbara were doing then. Our involvement ended only with Anne's death. What an inspiring man, foster parent, and Association leader he was! I was saddened to learn of his death. Sounds like he lived an amazing life. My condolences to his entire family. Charlie Hughes.

Charlie Hughes - August 15, 2021 at 09:11 PM

BM

“ I served with Rick on the Air Staff and during Desert Storm. I fondly recall his intelligence, devotion to duty, and energetic patriotism. He was a consummate professional -- tough, hard working and kind. He had tough assignments in the Air Force and performed brilliantly like the happy warrior he was. RIP Rick. Brian J. Morra

Brian Morra - August 15, 2021 at 04:18 PM

FT

“ RIP Dick.



Frank Titus - August 15, 2021 at 02:02 PM

TH

“ I only met Col Atchison once, but I remember him. We spent much of a day together back in the mid-1990s at Carlisle Barracks when we both briefed an Army War College class and enjoyed a meal with our host the evening before. I presented information on Russian capabilities and Col Atchison covered US systems. The presentations went well and to this day it is a pleasant memory. My condolences to the family.

Thomas Hyra - August 15, 2021 at 12:49 PM

DB

“ Richard M. “Rick” Atchison was a valued member of the Virginia Bowhunters Association and in 2018 was elected to its highest honor, the Order of the Golden Feather. The VBA was formed in 1941 and since that time has had tens of thousands of members, only 87 of whom have been selected into the OGF. This singular honor demonstrates the high esteem and respect shown to Rick by his fellow archers. His extremely positive interaction with Wounded Warriors via archery and his active participation in many groups and studies that impact wildlife conservation at local, state, and national levels leave a void that will be hard to fill. He will be sincerely missed by the many friends whose lives he touched – especially those with whom he shared quiet moments in the woods. The VBA and the OGF extend condolences to the Atchison family and friends and will keep them in our prayers.

David Burpee - August 12, 2021 at 10:49 AM