



Paul Bryan Monroe Jr.
02/26/1924 – 10/23/2021

Paul Bryan “Buddy” Monroe Jr, Colonel (USAF, Ret’d) passed away 10/23/2021 at age 97 in San Antonio TX from natural causes.

Paul was born in Highwood IL 2/26/1924, the second child of 8, to Paul B. Monroe Sr and Caroline Henrietta Butler. Despite attending 32 grammar schools and 7 different high schools, Paul graduated high school mid-term in December 1941, officially in the class of 1942. A high school senior in Brownsville, TX when Pearl Harbor was attacked, he became an Army Air Forces aviation cadet 4/3/1942, was commissioned 2nd Lt, rated a combat pilot in 1943, and served on continuous active duty for 32 ½ years in the Army Air Forces and USAF until retiring 9/1/1974.

Paul’s biggest moment was meeting his wife, Louise Dorothy Rosenbach, on a bus 4/3/1942, and they were married in her hometown of Fredericksburg, TX 11/8/1944. They had 8 children and were married 71 years. Raising the family in the Catholic faith was central to their life.

While in the service, Paul flew more than 7,000 hours in military aircraft including 2,500+ hours in the B/RB-26 light bombardment and night reconnaissance aircraft, with combat hours over North Korea in 1952, and he also had over 2,700 hours in the 6-engine jet B-47 bomber, serving in every squadron and wing operational position, including deputy wing commander. Later, he served on the faculty of the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk VA, was the Defense Attaché in the US Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden and finished his service at Randolph AF Base as the Deputy Inspector General.

Other career accomplishments/events include: surviving a “dead stick landing” crash in a B-24 Liberator in the dark of night at Liberal KS 06/15/1945; capturing the first official photographs of a MiG-15 in the Berlin air corridor making three passes of an airfield flying the RB-26 the Spring of 1948; being offered a regular Army commission in May 1946 without a college degree, and finding a crashed C-47 full of dependents in the French Alps alongside a crashed B-17 search plane on a reconnaissance mission. He graduated with high honors with an AB degree from George Washington University in 1956. In Sept 1958, Paul commanded one of four 3-man B-47 crews which won the Fairchild Trophy for navigation and bombardier superiority for MacDill AFB, in the largest ever worldwide bombing and navigation tournament between Australia, Canada, England, France, and the United States. In 1961, he was awarded a “spot promotion” (accelerated) to Lt Colonel for superior job performance.

Paul was awarded the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Air Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, The Air Force Commendation Medal (with 2 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (with OLC), and the Order of the Sword (Knight Commander) from the Swedish government.

Retired, he was an avid reader and card player (bridge, pinochle, rummy, etc.) and volunteered thousands of hours at

Brooke Army Medical Center, the VA National Cemetery, and the Army Residence Community (ARC) chapel for Catholic services. He and Louise played a lot of golf and traveled all over the U.S. and Canada in their RV. He was very involved with family get-togethers and reunions over the years and his involvement was integral. He had a mind like a “steel trap” and his memory was remarkable. And let us not forget that this man loved to sing!

He was predeceased by his wife Louise, and sons P. Bryan “Buddy” Monroe III and Gregory Monroe, parents Paul and Caroline Monroe, sister Caroline Cronan of Houston TX, and brothers Robert Monroe, John Monroe of Hurst TX, and James Monroe of Wichita KS.

Survivors include Children: Sue “Skippy” Sauget Maxwell Belleville IL, Thomas Monroe and wife Connie California PA, John Monroe and wife Lynda Liberty Hill TX, Charles Monroe and wife Karen Comfort TX, Lori Melton and husband Ralph Austin TX, and Sarah Childers and husband Bart San Antonio TX; Grandchildren: Richard Sauget II and three children Nicholas Krietemeyer (wife Krissy and two children Charlotte, Theodore), Richard “Tre” III, Simone Sauget IL, Annie Sauget Miller and husband David and four children Tiernan, Seamus, Oscar, Poppy St. Louis MO, Jake Monroe California PA, John Monroe California PA, Nicholas Monroe San Antonio TX, Mary Parker and husband Bryan and two children Preston, Alexis Leander TX, Adrienne Monroe and one child Natalie Marble Falls TX, Michael Monroe Austin TX, Jennifer Martin and husband Jared and three children Andrew, Henry, Owen Midlothian TX, Hannah Powell and husband Matt and three children Peter, Charlotte, Sophia Huntsville TX, Sarah Lee and husband Austin and two children Addison, Camilla San Antonio TX, Taylor Monroe and wife Heather Georgetown TX, Brandon Melton Austin TX, Jeremy Melton Buda TX, Alex Goodwin San Antonio TX, Kenneth Goodwin and wife Molly San Antonio TX, and Jack Goodwin San Antonio TX; Sisters: Virginia Schutz Morgan TX, Julett Broadnax San Antonio TX, and Martha Hughes Orange TX; and Sister-in-law: Tommie Duncan Monroe Hurst TX.

Services on Tuesday November 16, 2021:

8.30 am rosary

9.00 am Mass

St. John Neumann Catholic Church 6680 Crestway Dr
San Antonio TX 78239

10:30 am interment

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Shelter #3
1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd.
San Antonio TX 78209



