



## Ralph Thomas Denton

October 6, 1929 - February 18, 2016

Denton, Ralph Thomas

Ralph Denton, 86 or Hobe Sound, Florida passed away on February 18, 2016. Ralph was born in Culleoka, Tennessee on October 6, 1929. He graduated with a class of eight students in June, 1947 and attended Columbia Business College – later working with the F.B.I. in an administrative position in Washington, DC. In 1948, at the age of 18, Ralph joined the United States Air Force. As an intelligence Sergeant of the 19th Bomb Wing, his duty brought him from Texas to Guam and then to Okinawa when the Korean Conflict broke out. The 19th flew the first strikes against Korea the day after their arrival in Okinawa. Ralph married Rachel McMann on August 3, 1952. Rachel was Sergeant in the W.A.F.'s and shortly after that Ralph was discharged and returned to the F.B.I. in Washington. In October Ralph decided to rejoin the Air Force and was sent to an Air Force Base in North Carolina. He was transferred in December 1952 to Cape Cod, MA where their daughter Becky was born. The family of three later moved to Nagoya, Japan for three years. There Ruth Ann and Rhonda were born. In 1957 the family of five came back from Japan, and Ralph was again stationed in Massachusetts until 1960 when orders now sent him to Morocco. After returning to the States in 1961 they went to Little Rock, Arkansas where their son Rodney was born. In 1964 the family was transferred to Honolulu, Hawaii for three years duty at PAVAF Headquarters. There their daughter Robin was born. In 1967 Ralph and family

returned to the States to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. After a short time, orders came for a tour of duty in Vietnam. Ralph returned from Vietnam to Barksdale, Louisiana in 1969. On February 1, 1970, after twenty one years of service with four commendation medals and decorations, Ralph retired as Senior Master Sergeant to live in Tequesta, FL. On February 23, 1970 Ralph's career with the United States Postal Service began. With his first job, came a bicycle. They headed him in the direction of 15th Street in West Palm Beach. He knew nothing about West Palm Beach. He was not even sure where the Post Office was. Ralph spent several years as an active member of the North County Ambulance Service, and in 1971 he became a Charter Member of the Jupiter Elks Lodge #2469, sponsored by the first Exalted Ruler, Howard Koch. Ralph has served in all the Chairs. On April 1, 1978, Ralph became the Exalted Ruler of Jupiter Elks. He has been on several of Jupiter's District Winning Ritual Teams and three times has been named to an All District Chair. Ralph has served on server District and State Committees. He was a Certified Computer and Word Judge. On May 26, 1985 Ralph was installed as Vice President of the Southeast District of the Florida State Elks Association. Ralph and his family lived in Tequesta for 28 years and in 2004 moved to the Retreat in Hobe Sound. He was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Rachel McMann Denton. Left to cherish is memory are his children Rebecca Norcia of Ft. Pierce, Ruth Vandall of Hobe Sound, Rhonda Walters of Port Matilda, PA, Robin Coombs of Dayton, Ohio and Rodney Denton of Apex, NC; his companion Janice McMann, his sister Ozella Dugger of Culleoka, TN and many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Services and burial will held in Tennessee at a later date.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph Thomas Denton*

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October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *Prayers and condolences to the Denton family in the loss of Ralph. I was saddened to hear of his passing. I grew up in Culleoka, TN. living next door to Ralph's parents on Depot Street. May the Lord bless you and comfort you during this saddest of time.*

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**John & Beverly Roland - Royal Palm Beach, FL - Neighbor** - March 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Dash 10/6/1929 2/18/2016 Please read this lil poem for my beloved father: Ralph T. Denton Note the dates on his tombstone From the beginning to the end. Note that first came his date of birth With the following date creating tears, But remember what matters most of alls the dash between those years. (19 2016) For this dash represents all the time That he spent alive here on this earth And now only those who loved him Know what that little line is worth. For it matters not, how much we own; The cash, the house, the cars, What matters is how we live and love And how we spend our dash! Please think about this long and hard Are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left, That still can be rearranged. If we could just slow down enough To consider what's true and real, And always try to understand The way other people feel. And be less quick to anger, And show appreciation more And love the people in our lives Like we've never them loved before. If we treat each other with respect, And more often wear a smile Remembering that this special dash May only last for just a little while. So when your eulogy is being read With your life's actions to rehash Would you be proud of the things they say About how you spent your dash?*

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**Becky Norcia - Fort Pierce, FL - Daughter** - March 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *My Dad was very proud of his military service as was my Mother also. We are all so very proud to have been raised by them in as a military family!*

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**Becky Norcia - Fort Pierce, FL - Daughter** - March 02, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *Michelle, Only your memories and your love for each other will comfort you and the knowledge that your grandfather is with God for all eternity. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

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**Noel Kudla - Pompton Plains, NJ - Friend** - February 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *My parents Don and Ida Spear were very good friends with Rachel and Ralph. I have many fond memories of them both growing up. Many blessings to his family.*

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**Nancy Villandry - Jupiter, FL - Friend** - February 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM