



## Jack Ralph Banks

January 25, 1919 - June 3, 2017

Jack R. Banks, Colonel USAF Retired, passed away quietly June 3, 2017 at home. He was 98 years old. Born in Payette, Idaho, Jack moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon where he grew up. He attended Oregon State University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business.

Jack learned to fly while in college and entered the Army Air Corp on November of 1941. He married his wife, Dorothy in May of 1942 and was soon dispatched to the Pacific where he saw action in WWII. He captained the crew of a B-24 Liberator bomber, "Miss Givings" that flew numerous missions out of Darwin Australia. He and his crew were awarded several commendations including the Silver Star.

Jack spent 30 years in the Air Force and was stationed around the world. He retired in 1970 and moved to Corvallis, Oregon where he and Dorothy lived and traveled from.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, son, Jack R. Banks Jr, and hunting companion, Happy. He is survived by his daughter, Sharon; son, Ray; granddaughters, Debbie, Angela and Heather; grandson, Jonathon and six great-grandchildren.

A private service will be held. Memorial contributions may be made to House Call Providers Hospice [www.housecallproviders.org](http://www.housecallproviders.org) ; 5100 SW Macadam Ave. Ste 200, Portland, OR 97239

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at [www.demossturidan.com](http://www.demossturidan.com).

# Comments

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“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Colonel Banks passing. I met him for the first time about 10 years ago. I had known from his signature on my Air Force awards that he had been my commanding officer at Amarillo AFB in the early 60's. While I was doing genealogical research and going through family memorabilia I found a cryptic telegram that was addressed to him during the war. It showed he lived in Corvallis, right on my doorstep, so I contacted him.

He graciously opened his door to a perfect stranger and shared his memories, and to me priceless knowledge of a mission he flew during which my uncle, Arnold Churchek and the rest of the crew of the " Black Widow" was lost.

I last saw him in Beaverton just a couple of months ago. We looked through my copy of The Flying Circus, which tells the history of the 380th Bomb Group and the men and women who served and sacrificed. After all those years, while he looked at the photos you could see alternately smiles, and tears in his eyes as he remembered those that he loved and lost.

Since his passing I had the opportunity to go through "Witchcraft", the restored B-24 operated by the Collings Foundation and Greg Trebon the pilot, gave me a detailed account of what life on a combat mission in a B-24 would be like. The image I constructed in my mind was not a pleasant one.

We all owe a great debt to Colonel Banks and his entire generation for fighting and dying to secure the wonderful life we have today.

He was a true hero, and a gentleman to the end.

I am honored and grateful for having the opportunity to know him.

Arnold W. Churchek

Arnold Churchek - June 21, 2017 at 11:28 AM

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“ my name is Mary Lou Keim. I am the daughter of Richard S. Fern, Sr. Colonel Banks was the Commander of my dad's B-24, Miss Giving. Dad was a waist gunner. he always spoke very highly of Colonel Banks and had so many great tales. today is June 13th. i woke up this morning at 0500 with Colonel Banks on my mind. I thought i should write to him, and thank him for taking such good care of my Dad in the war, so that i and my brothers and sister could be born. I was so sorry to look him up online, (and he appears in many places) and find that he passed away June 3rd. I am sure you all loved Colonel Banks very much, and to me, he is an American Hero. I hope he heard my thoughts this morning. God bless you all.

Mary Lou (fern) Keim - June 13, 2017 at 11:11 AM