



Walter Larry Matthews

July 28, 1941 - May 17, 2024

WALTER LARRY MATTHEWS LT. COL. USAF (RET) OF PANAMA CITY, DIED ON MAY 17, 2024 IN ST AUGUSTINE HE WAS BORN AT AMERICUS, GEORGIA ON JULY 28, 1941 AND SPENT HIS YOUTH GROWING UP IN PERRY, GEORGIA. HE ATTENDED MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE, MARION, ALABAMA, GRADUATED FROM THE CITADEL CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, RECEIVED HIS MASTERS DEGREE FROM CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY, ORANGE, CALIFORNIA, AND WAS A GRADUATE OF THE INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE IN 1983 AFTER TWENTY YEARS AS A MASTER NAVIGATOR WITH OVER 6000 FLYING HOURS AND 211 COMBAT MISSIONS IN VIETNAM, PRIMARILY IN THE KC-135 STRATOTANKER. HE RECEIVED NUMEROUS; DECORATIONS INCLUDING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, AIR MEDAL WITH SEVEN OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTER, THE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH TWO OAK LEAF CLUSTERS AND NUMEROUS OTHER AWARDS. AFTER HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE AIR FORCE, HE SERVED AS THE SENIOR AIR FORCE JROTC INSTRUCTOR AT RUTHERFORD HIGH SCHOOL IN SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA RETIRING IN 2003. AS AN EDUCATOR, HE WAS RECOGNIZED THREE TIMES IN WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN TEACHERS AND WAS TWICE NAMED AN

OUTSTANDING AIR FORCE JROTC INSTRUCTOR. HE WAS A MASTER MASON, A MEMBER OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION, THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, AND THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS POST 17. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE PARKER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN PARKER, FLORIDA.

HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE CAROL MATTHEWS; SON, MICHAEL MATTHEWS (ANGEL); DAUGHTER, MELISSA MATTHEWS HOLT (GARRETT); GRANDCHILDREN, RYLEIGH HOLT AND GAVIN HOLT AND BROTHERS, CHRIS AND RAY MATTHEWS.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS THE FAMILY REQUEST DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY HOSPICE OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA, <https://thefoundationcar.es.org/give/>

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.