



Joseph R. Briner

February 20, 1935 - December 5, 2010

Joseph R. Briner 75 of Bluffton passed away at 3:45 a.m. Sunday at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

He was born on February 20, 1935 to Corvin O. & Oma M. (Greenawalt) Briner in Sturgis, Michigan. On December 21, 1958 at Saint Marks Lutheran Church in Uniondale he married Janet A. (Allen) Briner. They have shared almost 52 years of marriage together.

Mr. Briner graduated from Rock Creek High School in 1953. He furthered his education at Purdue University graduating in 1957 with a degree in Agriculture Education and serving the ROTC program. He served his country for 6 years in the United States Air force. He retired in 1990 as the Department Commander of Operations of the Fort Wayne National Guard Air Base after 25 years. He served his country for over 32 years during his career in the Military. He was also member of the American Legion Post # 111 of Bluffton and Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale.

Mr. Briner is survived by his wife Janet of Bluffton along with two daughters and a son; Susan E. (husband Michael) Bartlett of Fort Wayne, Sheryl E. (husband Jeffrey) Carnes of Evansville and Brian A. (wife Laura) Briner of Hortonville, Wisconsin, along with 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Other survivors include a sister Janice G. Head of Phoenix, Arizona and a

brother Jerry F. Briner of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Friends are invited to visit with the Briner family from 2 to 8 on Friday, (December 10, 2010) at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. A memorial service will be held at 10 A.M. on Saturday (December 11, 2010) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale with Pastor Richard Vonesh officiating. Burial will take place at a later time at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton. Memorials may be made to the Wells County Food Bank or to St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Friends can send online condolences to the Briner Family at www.thomarich.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 10. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Service

DEC 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Oaklawn Cemetery
701 S Jefferson Street
Ossian, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph R. Briner*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - December 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Joseph R. Briner*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *My condolences to the Briner family. It is always a sad day to hear of the passing of one of the good guys of the FWA ANG. Fortunately there are memories of all the good times shared with the exceptional group of men who were and are the FWA guard. Joe Briner was at the top of this elite group and will be remembered for both his leadership and friendship.##imported-begin##Bonnie (Ernie) Dodson##imported-end##*

December 13, 2010 at 05:29 PM



“ *I'm sorry to hear about Joe. He was a good person and will be sadly missed. My deepest condolences your family. Greg and Diane Wyant##imported-begin##Greg Wyant##imported-end##*

December 12, 2010 at 10:49 PM



“ *Not just a fighter pilot, but a leader of fighter pilots. Joe was tops by anyone's measure. More than that, he was a good man, the best. Always honest, straight forward, never critical. He didn't say a lot, but I hung on his every word. Joe hired me to be one of his Hun Drivers. I am so grateful. Thanks, Joe. God bless you.##imported-begin##Jim Russell##imported-end##*

December 12, 2010 at 11:42 AM



“ *Jan,*

So sorry to hear of Joe passing away. Marion was in the 122nd and knew him from there. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Marion and BJ Gray##imported-end##

December 11, 2010 at 03:19 PM



“ *Although my meeting of Joe Briner was brief, I know he was a good man. He raised an amazing daughter that I consider to be one of my best friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family.##imported-begin##Dawn Ewan##imported-end##*

December 11, 2010 at 02:36 PM



“ I was shocked to hear of his passing. I hadn't seen Joe for awhile and didn't know he was having any trouble. I had talked to Joe years ago about getting into the Air Guard. I'd been out of the AF for 18 years, but was interested in getting in the ANG, which with his help, put 19 yrs there. Also while in high school we use to get together and ride our Cushman scooters. I was hoping to get to the funeral home to see him and family, but had another commentment. Sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Gene Biberstein, M/Sgt Retired##imported-end##

December 11, 2010 at 09:47 AM



“ I can't begin to say in words how Joe's quite continual presence at church affected me growing up. He was the first, and for the longest time, the only person I knew who was in the military. It was my deep respect for Joe as a person that grew into the awe and respect I have for our nations military and veterans! This deep reverence is what motivates me most to get my degree as nurse practitioner. With all my heart I want to serve the vets by working at the VA, and it all started with Joe. I never told him and I should have. But I did want you to know. With gratitude and heart felt sympathy Candace##imported-begin##Candace Hoffacker##imported-end##

December 11, 2010 at 08:51 AM



“ I worked daily with Col Briner for 18 of my 30 yrs until he retired and have the fondest of memories of him. What a professional & gentleman! He always had time to talk to us enlisted people and made us feel that we were just as important to the team as the pilots. I thank God I got to greet him one last time in Kendallville around Labor Day 2010 at the visitation of another departed team member, CMSgt Steve Tieman. God Bless You Mrs. Briner & Your Family##imported-begin##CMSgt (ret) Tom Marks##imported-end##

December 10, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Col Joe was a great friend and mentor. He will be sadly missed by all that knew & worked with him.##imported-begin##John Allman##imported-end##

December 10, 2010 at 11:19 AM



“ Joe was larger than life when I returned to Fort Wayne from Air Force pilot training. A soft spoken and confident leader that became my mentor. His flying skills were only matched by his integrity. Even when I was in trouble, Joe made me feel I was still on his team. My life is better having had Joe as a boss and a friend - he will be missed! My sympathies to Janet & Family. Dave Brubaker##imported-begin##David Brubaker##imported-end##

December 10, 2010 at 06:37 AM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Joe was a true American Patriot and professional Pilot. He was my boss for many years, and he always had the best interest of his people and the Air National Guard at heart. He always gave his best in any job assigned, and expected the same from all who worked with him. He will be sorely missed by his friends, and a great loss to his family. Joe has now broken the surly bonds, and is once again flying, always in clear skies, with the wind at his back, and with the angels as his wingmen this time.##imported-begin##Bob and Carolyn Franke##imported-end##

December 09, 2010 at 03:01 PM



“ To Joe's family:
My sympathies are with you.
Col. Briner was a straight-ahead guy and he's gone way too young. I'm sure you know he garnered a great deal of respect; and showed how a man can serve his country and community while being a great husband, father and businessman.
My best to all of you.
Len Gillan##imported-begin##Len Gillan##imported-end##

December 09, 2010 at 11:27 AM



“ Janet, and Family..... My heart is so heavy with the loss of Joe. I so looked forward to seeing him everyother weds. He was my father, mentor, and someone I will always feel honored to have had in my life! As I read other postings, I feel VERY privlaged to have known Joe and to be apart of his journey here on earth. He was a wonderful, caring, simple man. Kinda quiet, Great listener, and always had positive feed back. Our converstations and talks were a wide range, from politics, religion, current events, to peace on earth! He was a smart man and I will always cherish his words of advice and times spent with him. A great Man! He so loved "Mrs. B", his children, grandkids, family and friends. He was a proud man of all of you and your accomplishments. He spoke often about you! May God hold you in his arms and heal the sorrow that you feel with His everlasting love. Thank you Joe, for all your love and support! You may be gone, but NEVER forgotten! Life as we know it, will never be the same without you..... I love you Joe!###imported-begin##Kay Day###imported-end##

December 09, 2010 at 11:22 AM



“ We will all miss such a vibrant, full-of-life man. Praying God's peace comfort the family.###imported-begin##Harriet S. Schaadt###imported-end##

December 09, 2010 at 09:01 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Col. Briner's passing. I had the honor of being involved with operations and flying with him for 21 years in the Guard. He hired me as a Technician in 1980. He was a good boss, a great pilot, and an honorable man. Godspeed Joe, on your last flight.###imported-begin##Jim & Linda Baker###imported-end##

December 09, 2010 at 08:11 AM



“ Goodby to a great friend and pilot.
Joe, you will be remembered for a long
time.##imported-begin##Danny Liechty##imported-end##

December 08, 2010 at 08:33 PM



“ I was so sad to read of Joe's passing. I remember when my sister
and I baby-sit him and his siblings. I guess we never think that one
younger than I am will be taken home so early. Tom and I send our
sympathy to all of you and will be praying for you as you bid
goodbye. We remember that those whose trust is in the Lord will be
with Him in his heavenly home. God's blessings on you.##imported-
begin##Tom and Nancy Haiflich##imported-end##

December 08, 2010 at 04:46 PM



“ I will miss our weekly visits##imported-begin##Richard
Elzey##imported-end##

December 08, 2010 at 02:05 PM



“ It is with utmost sadness to hear of Col. Joe's passing. He was
great Guardsman and a wonderful friend. I will miss him.

And now he soars on laughter silvered wings. . ##imported-
begin##MSgt (ret'd) Glenn Brendel##imported-end##

December 08, 2010 at 01:15 PM



“ To the Briner family,
Sorry to hear of Joe's passing. Joe was definitely one of the good
guys at the guard. He treated everyone equally and it was a
pleasure to have served with him.##imported-begin##CMSgt
(Retired) Roy Bakehorn##imported-end##

December 08, 2010 at 11:29 AM



“ JAN,
DURING OUR TWENTY PLUS YEARS AT THE 122ND WITH JOE
AND YOU BRING BACK MANY FOND MEMORIES. OUR
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND
YOURS.##imported-begin##Tom & Gloria Winans##imported-
end##

December 08, 2010 at 09:57 AM



“ Janet, reading of Joe's death guides my memory back over sixty
years. My only recent memory is seeing you, Joe and your mom at
Brenda's calling. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. May
God's presence bring you peace.##imported-begin##Larry
Lesh##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 09:41 PM



“ Janet, Sending you my sincere sympathy in the loss of your husband. I taught with you at the Vera Cruz school. That was many years ago! My deepest sympathy to your family also. Take care.

Sincerely,
Colleen (Whittenberger) Shenk
LaOtto, IN##imported-begin##Colleen Shenk##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 09:03 PM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Joe's death. Please know that we are thinking of you during this sad time.

Sincerely, Ed and Karen Hasler##imported-begin##Ed and Karen Hasler##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 06:33 PM



“ It is great sadness that we learned of Col Joe's passing. He was an outstanding officer and a great pilot. It was a pleasure as well as an honor to have served with him and to have flown with him in the INANG. He will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.##imported-begin##RC Chick & Michelle Smith##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 04:49 PM



“ We Love you Uncle Joe. I will always remember the great times we had playing golf out in Arizona. I will be thinking of you, especially when I am up in the sky flying around.##imported-begin##Marty & Sue Head##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 03:22 PM



“ Jan, Susan, Cheryl and Brian...

I am saddened from the bottom of my heart. As you know we lost my older brother just two days before we all lost Joe. They must be in some hanger somewhere telling flying stories. :)

Joe was not just an in-law; he was a fellow pilot and one of the best friends a person could have in life. In the last few days I have recalled so many fond memories of Joe and the entire family. Having had over 50 years to build on them there are too many to mention. However, some of the more special ones were of our visits to Indiana, and it was always special when Joe & Janet would visit us in North Carolina as well as Arizona. Joe was the only golfer I ever met that was worse than I was :) And recalling a Balloon ride in Arizona together—Joe and I were Jet Jockeys and the Balloon idea scared the hell out of both of us :) Our wives were unshaken :)

Now that Joe has taken his last flight west, I am sure I will see him on our next layover together.

I Salute You Col. Joe

Fly Fast and Live Slow my Friend,

I love you to eternity,

Capt. Bobby Head###imported-begin##Bobby Head###imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 01:51 PM



“ Dear Janet and Family,

I was deeply saddened to hear the news about Joe's passing. Please know that I will be thinking of you during this difficult time. May the peace which comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Stacy Hoffacker##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 01:06 PM



“ Janet -

So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He was a great guy and one of the best officers I had the priviledge of serving with. He made a difference in many lives as you will read and hear the next few days. The Indiana Air Guard is a better place because of him.

My God grant you and your family peace.

Perry & Clare##imported-begin##Col(ret) Perry & Clare Collins##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 11:44 AM



“ Dear Janet and Family,

We are so sorry to hear of Joes passing and we just want you to know you all are in our thoughts and prayers. This is a time when we must call on the strength of our savior to see us through and we know he will be there.

As ever our love,

Guy and Lois Shutt##imported-begin##Guy and Lois Shutt##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 10:51 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He and I were classmates at Purdue in AgEd, he went the Air Force Route and I the Army. We both were pilots in the Guard. I am sure you have many fond memories to sustain you in this time of sorrow. Please know he was a good friend, and will be missed by all who knew him as well as I did.##imported-begin##BG(Ret) Francis Hughes##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 10:10 AM



“ My prayers and thoughts are with the entire Briner Family. Col Briner was my boss for several years and I have nothing but praise and admiration for him. In the end all we have is the life we lived and the way we treated others. Joe did both very well.##imported-begin##CW4 (Ret) Jack (JP) Morgan##imported-end##

December 07, 2010 at 09:15 AM



“ Aunt Jan, Susan, Cheryl and Brian...I will always remember the wonderful times we had when my parents would bring us to visit Uncle Joe and Aunt Jan. It was always so much fun to visit with you all, and get to feed the calves, get lost in the corn field, and play in the snow! (Being from Tx I never saw much of that!) But I will always remember that long pass that someone made as we were walking in to eat dinner....I think it was Uncle Joe...he threw the football and it landed in the goal of the basketball hoop....way over on the barn. My brother Marty and I still talk about that! Uncle Joe was a special man and always thinking of others..he will be dearly missed. I love you Aunt Jan and am keeping you and all of your family in my prayers!F
God bless you all.
XOXO Gerri###imported-begin##Gerri H. Nordstrom###imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 11:02 PM



“ Mrs Briner and Family,
My condolences and sympathy in the passing of your husband and our friend.###imported-begin##SMSgt Cyril(Cid) R Pfeiffer
Retired###imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 11:01 PM



“ Joe was a world class gentleman and an extraordinary officer. I served under him for a dozen years and will always consider him the best of the best. My condolences to his family and hope they know he was a man of which all could be proud to have known him!###imported-begin##Tom Wratten###imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 10:07 PM



“ Col. Briner always treated me like 'one of the guys' when he walked out on the ramp to fly my airplane. We would 'chat' and discuss the events that were happening at the time. He was an asset to The Indiana Air National Guard, and to everyone that was around him. He never had a bad word to say to me or anyone. God Bless you Col. Briner and God Send.##imported-begin##Msgt. Glenn L. Hawk##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 09:54 PM



“ Joe was the most honorable officer I ever had the privilege to serve with. Johanna and I had a nice lunch with Joe and Dave Stohler a few years ago and enjoyed a walk down memory lane. I am so glad we had the opportunity to reminisce. God's peace be with Joe on his final flight and to his family, God's comfort.##imported-begin##Verlin and Johanna Egly##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 09:49 PM



“ Joe was FWA's best, a straight up guy. Sorry to hear he has flown his final flight West. I'm sure it will be smooth and his destination good. My condolences to his family. GOD BLESS! Jim and Laurie##imported-begin##Jim Speer##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 09:37 PM



“ I served with Joe from 1965 to 1970 ... he was one of the best ... as a person, and as a pilot. Joe, enjoy your last flight.##imported-begin##Gale Cawley##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 08:54 PM



“ *The Bayless's and the Briner's had found memories as neighbors. We are sad to learn that Joe has left his life on earth to join the heavenly skies. Carolyn and Larry extend our sympathy to all of the Briner family.##imported-begin##Larry & Carolyn Bayless##imported-end##*

December 06, 2010 at 08:09 PM



“ *It is with great sadness that I learned of Col. Joe's passing. Joe first hired me into the 163rd TFS back in 1974. He was a top notch commander and a "you know what", hot fighter pilot! We had wonderful times at Nellis, Alpena, Lakenheath, as well as all the others. God speed, Joe, as you fly west the last time. "Check Six"! We'll all miss you. Bob##imported-begin##Bob Lampke##imported-end##*

December 06, 2010 at 07:22 PM



“ *Dear Jan,
We were so sorry to read that Joe had passed away. Joe was a wonderful man and an excellent neighbor & friend. I will always remember how excited the kids would get every time he was outside with Deter. Please let us know if you need our help in any way. We will be praying for you and your family.
Love Always,
Paul, Dana, Kendall, Evan, Lucas & Eli##imported-begin##Paul & Dana Shoemaker##imported-end##*

December 06, 2010 at 07:14 PM



“ I remember Col Joe as one of the "good guys". That gives me pleasant memories of the ANG.##imported-begin##Lynn Shultz, SMS retired, Indiana ANG##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 06:53 PM



“ A good man...we'll miss him..##imported-begin##David Vie##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 06:32 PM



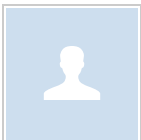
“ So sorry to read of Joe's passing. I can remember him as "always an up-to speed guy". My condolences to thefamily.##imported-begin##Donald P Stevens LtCol USAFR Ret##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 06:24 PM



“ Joe was a good friend and mentor. I went to work at the guard around the same time as Joe, and quickly learned about life and living from Joe and the rest of the guys in the 122nd and 163rd. They took a young kid in off the farm under wing gave me an education that money can't buy and we all had fun doing it.##imported-begin##Mike Burke##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 05:33 PM



“ Joe will be missed by his fellow Q B brothers##imported-begin##Terry Flaugh##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 04:24 PM



“ Col. Joe Briner was a great commander and friend to all members of the INANG at Fort Wayne. I flew many missions with him and was always impressed with his capabilities and professionalism. He served his country well and will be missed.##imported-begin##Paul Burton##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 04:19 PM



“ Had e-mail from Charlie Barnes. Sorry to hear about Joe, know our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Fred and Winnie Hambleton##imported-end##

December 06, 2010 at 04:12 PM



“ Janet,

I am so sorry to hear of Joe's death. Coming from a Terre Haute pilot, it is hard to praise Ft. Wayne pilots, but Joe was one of the good guys at FWA. You too also helped me out when I was thinking about getting into the veal business. My uncle, Don Robinson, had me visit your operation.##imported-begin##Ron Beyers##imported-end##

December 05, 2010 at 07:45 PM