



Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret.

December 1, 1938 - December 15, 2023

Aiken, SC—Funeral Services for Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret., 85, who entered into rest December 15, 2023, will be conducted Friday morning at 11 o'clock from the Bethel United Methodist Church. Reverend Matt Turner officiating. Interment in Jackson Memorial Park with Full Military Honors.

General Risher was a native of Ellenton, South Carolina, a former resident of Jackson having made Aiken his home for the past 19 years. He was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church of Jackson. After graduating from Auburn University in June 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the South Carolina Air National Guard in July 1963 and was selected to attend undergraduate pilot training. Between the 13 months of Primary and Basic training at Webb AFB, Texas, he and Deanne Phillips were married on August 1, 1964. After Webb AFB, Gen. Risher went to Perrin AFB, Texas for advanced interceptor training. He returned to McEntire ANG Base as a mission ready F-102 pilot.

Upon his return to South Carolina in 1965, he was employed as a Chemical Engineer with E.I. du Pont at the Savannah River Nuclear Site from which he retired in December 1998. As a traditional guardsman, General Risher progressed from the rank of Second Lieutenant to General Officer and held positions of line pilot, Flight Commander, Chief of Stan/Eval, Chief of

Command Post, Squadron Operations Officer, Squadron Commander, Wing Commander and ultimately Chief of Staff of the South Carolina Air National Guard.

During his tenure as Wing Commander, General Risher was also full time Base Commander responsible to the Adjutant General for 350 full time personnel in the daily operation of the base and an assigned strength of more than 1400 traditional guardsmen. General Risher served on active duty during Operation Desert Storm and commanded the 169th Fighter Wing (24 F-16s, 757 personnel) and flew 26 combat missions.

In December 1998, General Risher retired from the military (35+ years) as a command pilot with over 4000 hours flying time, all in jet fighters to include F-102 A & B; A-7D; and F-16 A, B, C and D. Some of General Risher's awards and decorations include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal and Air Medal.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Deanne Phillips Risher; a daughter, Kristy Summer and her husband, Russell; a son, Russell "Rusty" Risher and his wife, Susan; two grandchildren, Ansley Sharpe and her husband, Jess and Caroline Risher.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Dr. Robert Hill, Col. Robert Gray, USAF, Ret. and Dave McGlashan. Active Pallbearers will be Maj. David Reece, USMC, Ret., Keith Barnett, Clarence Beard, Tommy O'Banion, Milton Chapman and Jess Sharpe.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday evening from 5 until 7.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Bethel United Methodist Church, PO Box 497, Jackson, SC 29831 or to Epworth Children's Home,

2900 Millwood Avenue, Columbia, SC 29205.

Posey Funeral Directors of North Augusta in charge of arrangements (803-278-1181). Visit the registry at www.PoseyCares.com

Cemetery Details

Jackson Memorial Park

Hankinson Street
Jackson, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Directors
1307 Georgia Avenue
North Augusta, SC

Funeral Service

DEC **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel United Methodist Church
416 2nd Street
Jackson, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret.*



Posey Funeral Directors - December 19, 2023 at 04:16 PM

LB

Thank you, Jerry and family, for your service to our country!

Lee Bennett - December 21, 2023 at 11:09 AM

JM

“ *My very first salaried engineering job was with DuPont at the nuclear plant in Aiken, SC working under the supervision of Jerry Risher. Jerry never told me his rank and never talked down to me. He was a solid and reputable leader and when they transferred me to a different area he gave me solid advice and said - never burn your bridges behind you cuz you might need it one day. I attended his going away party they held for him even though I was not invited by the women who organized the event. Jerry Risher treated everybody with respect and his sense of humor always made me laugh.*

Jody Muniz - April 09 at 02:40 PM

SR

“ *Dee & Family, our deepest condolences. We'll always remember Jerry for his warm smile and friendly caring nature. When we moved to Aiken 7 years ago Jerry was the first one to stop by and welcome us. When our dog Zim passed away in April, Jerry was the first one to offer condolences. He is truly an American hero. We will miss Jerry. May he rest in peace.*

SMSgt Joe Rampino, USAF, Ret. - December 21, 2023 at 01:02 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret..*



December 21, 2023 at 12:29 PM

TC

“ *My deepest condolences to the Risher family. He was a very warm and welcoming individual who I had the opportunity to briefly meet. His son Rusty is great man and friend and no doubt shaped like his father. I hope the Risher family can share and recant the fun and great memories in the next coming days as he will always be around when you need him. He is never gone. Travel well, Mr. Risher.*

Tory Castillo - December 21, 2023 at 12:17 PM

JH

“ *I am thankful for BG Risher's career service to our nation in the United States Air Force and at the Savannah River Site. It is men like BG Risher that served to safeguard our freedom. I offer my sincere condolences to his family, may he rest in peace.*

Jeff Hoefs - December 20, 2023 at 11:01 PM



“ Glenn Gustafson lit a candle in memory of Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret.



Glenn Gustafson - December 20, 2023 at 08:20 PM



“ Erik, Erin, Annie, Alex & Anderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret..

Erik, Erin, Annie, Alex & Anderson - December 20, 2023 at 03:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret..



December 20, 2023 at 03:20 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret..



December 20, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret..*



December 20, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Kristy ,so sorry to hear about your Dad.God Bless youand your Family at a time like this.*

Ann Summer - December 20, 2023 at 04:17 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brig. Gen. Jerry H. Risher, USAF, Ret..*



December 19, 2023 at 10:24 PM



“ *Deanne, Kristy, Rusty, and families, I am so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. He has always been such a nice and friendly man. May the Lord bring you all comfort and strength today and in the days ahead. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Karen Copeland Muns - December 19, 2023 at 09:52 PM



Oh Dee, I just heard about Jerry's passing. I am so sorry for your loss. Condolences to you, Kristy and your family.

Susan Lott - April 08, 2024 at 06:33 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Donna Coleman-Barnett - December 19, 2023 at 05:28 PM