



## **Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired**

February 20, 1928 - December 29, 2019

Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired

Aiken, SC – Services for Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired, will be conducted at 1:00 pm on January 6, 2020 at Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida. He entered into rest on December 29, 2019 at the age of 91 with family by his side. He has lived in Aiken, SC for the last five years. David is known for his integrity and distinguishable commitment to his family and the nation.

Lt. Col. Mets was born February 20, 1928 in Teaneck, NJ to the late Rudolph and Mary (Ojala) Mets. He graduated from Quincy High School, Quincy, MA. Upon graduation he enlisted in the United States Navy and became an Electronics Technician. In 1948 he enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School and went on to graduate from the United States Naval Academy in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering. He was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force and became a Navigator, flying missions throughout Europe and Northern Africa before attending Pilot School. Upon completion of Pilot School his first assignment was as a Flight Instructor training other pilots in the B-25. In 1962 he earned a master's degree in History from Columbia University and became a Professor of History at the United States Air Force Academy. During this time, he began doctoral studies, later earning a Ph.D. in History from the University of Denver.

In 1968 he started his first tour in Vietnam as a C130 pilot moving supplies and equipment around southeast Asia to support U.S. combat efforts. More than once he came home with bullets in his airplane. One time he dodged a rocket attack by crawling across the ground, finally reaching his plane to hurriedly take off safely with his crew. Returning to the U.S. he taught as a History Professor, this time at the United States Military Academy – West Point. In 1974 he returned to Vietnam for a second tour as a pilot where he flew the weaponized C130 Gunship.

In 1975 David was stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama until his retirement from the Air Force in 1979 to Niceville, Florida. He began a second career as a military history professor, and he co-founded the School for Advanced Aerospace Studies (SASS) and served as a professor for the first 13 graduating classes. He wrote and published many books on air power, technology, NATO and military icons. David worked full time beginning at age 14 until he was nearly 86, having earned a paycheck for some 71 years. In addition to his parents, Lt. Col Mets was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Dorothy Marion Mets and a sister, Janet.

Survivors include three sons, Joseph Stanley Mets, Michael David (Mindy) Mets and David Matthew (Mary) Mets; a daughter, Evelyn Marion Mets; seven grandchildren, Joseph Michael (Patricia) Mets, Steven Mitchell Mets, Christopher Casey (Brianna) Mets, Catherine Kelly Mets, David Ryan Mets, Gordon (Kelly) Olwell and Melissa (Arash) Saberi; six great grandchildren and a brother, Wayno (Wendy) Mets.

Memorials may be made to United States Naval Academy Experiential Leadership Development or the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership programs ([www.usna.com/give](http://www.usna.com/give)).

Posey Funeral Directors of North Augusta is in charge of arrangements (803-

278-1181). Visit the registry at [www.PoseyCares.com](http://www.PoseyCares.com)

# Cemetery Details

## **Barrancas National Cemetery**

1 Cemetery Road  
Pensacola, FL 32508

# Previous Events

## **Graveside Service**

**JAN 6.** 1:00 PM (CT)

Barrancas National Cemetery  
1 Cemetery Road  
Pensacola, FL 32508

# Tribute Wall



“ *Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired*



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**Posey Funeral Directors** - December 31, 2019 at 02:30 PM

MH

*Dave was one of the finest teachers I ever had, and a fantastic friend and mentor who affected the lives of hundreds of Air Force Officers. Well done, Sir!*

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**Mike Holmes** - January 03, 2020 at 11:10 AM

SD

*Sad to see that this Airpower legend has left us. Thankful that his memory and thinking will live on via the thousands of Airmen he taught, mentored and trained.*

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**S.L. Davis** - January 03, 2020 at 05:22 PM

HB

*Dr. Metz had a way of cutting directly to the heart of the matter. He was one of the best and we will remember him fondly.*

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**Hal Bullock** - January 06, 2020 at 12:22 PM

JG

*Most prolific instructor at SAASS. Enjoyed his insightful teachings and war stories. Farewell to a true patriot, combat veteran, and inspirational professor.*

*J. Greene, SAASS XIII*

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**J Greene** - January 06, 2020 at 12:59 PM

JM

*Alan Gropman, please contact me at alaska2j@yahoo.com. I think I remember you from they days I was a child at USAFA, and you and my dad were professors there.*

Joseph Mets - June 28, 2020 at 02:10 AM



“ *Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired*

October 06, 2023 at 06:29 AM



“ *Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired*

September 24, 2022 at 12:12 PM

AG

“ *dave mets was one of my heroes. he was ill treated by leaders at the air force academy denying him promotions because of the 1,2,3 system. his flying career demonstrated command success and flying success. he spent time during the vietnam war to prepare me for my next assignement as a teacher in the history department. he also helped my performing as a true combat leader. my life after vietnam was mainly in military academe at the academy and teaching at various war colleges.. i saw a great deal of dave when he excelled at the air university. we have all lost a great person*

*alan gropman.*

alan gropman - April 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM

MM

“ I would like to thank everyone who took the time to express their sentiments here and to those who attended my father's services at Barrancas National Cemetery. It is certainly great that so many people shared their sentiments on the web page. It made me feel good and proud that dad has such an impact to so many.

*Mike Mets*

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**Michael Mets** - February 17, 2020 at 10:24 AM

MF

“ Such a wonderful man and a great professor. I just quoted him the other day. One of his quips of wisdom that I often tell others. He told me about his secretary telling him "Dr Mets, if you have to tell people you are great, you probably "Are-ent'" Dr Mets never had to tell people he was great. And he was a great man. Please accept our condolences. Marc and Pamela Felman

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**Marc D Felman** - January 13, 2020 at 04:47 PM

RO

“ One of the true greats of his generation(s). His thoughts, ideas, and teachings are a huge part of the intellectual foundation of hundreds of students--many of whom have led or are leading our Air Force today.

*Blue skies and tailwinds, my friend.*

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**Ray O'Mara** - January 08, 2020 at 03:42 PM

EM

“ Well, Daddy, call me sentimental but I will share this song that I often heard you sing. Fitting for Feast of Epiphany this week. Glad you got your wings back... Save me a place. Love, Evelyn

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**Evelyn Mets** - January 08, 2020 at 12:05 PM

EM

*To dream the impossible dream,  
To fight the unbeatable foe,  
To bear with unbearable sorrow,  
To run where the brave dare not go;  
To right the unrightable wrong,  
To love pure and chaste from afar,  
To try when your arms are too weary,  
To reach the unreachable star;  
This is my quest, to follow that star  
No matter how hopeless, No matter how far,  
To fight for the right without question or pause,  
To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause.  
And I know if I'll only be true to this glorious quest,  
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm when I'm laid to my rest.  
And the world will be better for this,  
That one man, scorned and covered with scars, still strive with his last  
ounce of courage,  
To reach the unreachable star.*

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**Evelyn Mets** - January 08, 2020 at 01:17 PM

MA

“*Dave. You are one of the very finest examples of an Airman--you flew, fought, and taught. You served a career in the Air Force and then instructed several more generations on airpower and leadership. "Sun Tzu, Clausewitz, Mets." Thank you for all you gave...*

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**Mace** - January 07, 2020 at 09:22 AM

SH

“ Mike and Mindy,  
Such a remarkable patriot, educator, and man  
who has touched so many lives. So  
interesting seeing the comments of his  
students. Thank you for sharing his special  
tribute and life. I enjoyed celebrating Mr. Mets' 90th birthday party  
with all the Mets family. May your fond memories of the special  
times you shared over the years and especially these last several  
years in Aiken bring you peace and joy. My thoughts and prayers  
are with you and your family in the days ahead.  
Sherry Hajec  
Aiken, SC



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**Sherry Hajec** - January 05, 2020 at 01:33 AM

MH

“ Dave was a great professor and a true icon in the gunship  
community. We will miss his warm friendship and keen insights. I  
feel blessed to have had the chance to learn from him and call him  
a friend.  
Mark Hicks, SAAS class XIII

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**Mark Hicks** - January 04, 2020 at 08:41 AM

BW

“ Anyone who had the opportunity to interact with and learn from Dr.  
Mets, will never forget the experience as attested to by the  
comments here. Thoughts and prayers with the Mets family. A life  
well lived.

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**Brett Williams** - January 04, 2020 at 07:51 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired.*



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January 03, 2020 at 05:05 PM



“ *Dave was a great man, a great teacher, a great Airman, and a great warrior who served his Nation well. Dave was my thesis adviser at SAAS and taught me so much about scholarly research and the history of Air Power and how it relates to the current world...may flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest...*

*Mark Hoffman, SAAS Class III*

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**Mark Hoffman** - January 03, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ *Love, Bob, Janice, Joy, Austin, Jarrett, Luciano purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired.*



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**Love, Bob, Janice, Joy, Austin, Jarrett, Luciano** - January 03, 2020 at 11:26 AM

JF

“*Dave was a force of nature and a great story teller. Some of my fondest memories orbit around the SAASS lunch table listening to his tales of glory. A gifted teacher and prolific scholar, Dave was most of all a friend who I'll miss him more than he can imagine. Rest in peace dear friend; I miss you.*

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**Jim Forsyth** - January 03, 2020 at 10:56 AM



“*My most sincere condolences for the loss of my dear friend and mentor, Dr. Mets. In SAAS Class III, he was my instructor and close friend. We will miss him dearly.*  
*Sam Angelella, Lt Gen, USAF (ret).*

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**Sam Angelella** - January 03, 2020 at 08:38 AM

DE

“*Dave Mets was my advisor at SAAS and we grew very close, but above all he was a great mentor and friend. He always knew how to provide sound advice and a gentle guiding hand when the pressures of the program seemed overwhelming. The world has lost a wonderful person and it will forever seem a little more lonely knowing he is gone.*

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**David Estep** - January 03, 2020 at 05:29 AM

PM

“*Dave was an unusually good man and outstanding scholar. He had a rock like integrity and was a true patriot. As a teacher, he was the type who students gravitated towards because he was so knowledgeable but also approachable and understanding. I thought the world of him.*

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**Phil Meilinger** - January 02, 2020 at 07:15 PM

CM

“ *What an incredible life he lived! I can only imagine what an interesting man he was to talk to! And I guess Joey knows what he will look like when he is older... the younger Lt. Col. Mets reminded me of Joey.*

*Prayers for safe travels and for peace. I know his service will be beautiful!.*

*Love to the Mets family...Cindy*

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**CindyMiller McNeill** - January 02, 2020 at 11:54 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired.*



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January 02, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ *Tranquil Seas was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired.*



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January 02, 2020 at 09:39 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. David Raymond Mets, U.S. Air Force, Retired.



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December 31, 2019 at 03:01 PM



“ 87 files added to the album Life Tributes



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Posey Funeral Directors - December 31, 2019 at 01:36 PM



“ How many life stories read- Enlisted man, US Naval Academy Grad, Engineer, Navigator, Pilot, Officer, PhD, Teacher, Author, Family man?

*Incredible life with amazing accomplishments.*

*Condolences to the entire Mets family.*

*Roger and Nieda Throne*

*Augusta Ga.*

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Roger Throne - December 31, 2019 at 01:12 PM

DD

“ LTC Mets was my History 348 "Development of Airpower" instructor when I was a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1973. I have kept the class readings for that course that LTC Mets put together since I graduated in 1974. In fact I used those class readings as sources when I was developing a detailed outline to support my efforts as a volunteer tour guide at the National World War I Museum and Memorial. The memorial is located just south of Union Station in downtown Kansas City, MO. LTC Mets is one of only a few of my professors that I distinctly remember from my four years at the academy. I was very saddened to hear of his passing. My prayers to his family.

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**Douglas Darling** - December 31, 2019 at 12:37 PM

MA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Mets family at the passing of your patriarch David Mets. David made a positive impact on many people during his life whether serving our nation, teaching others or caring for his family and loved ones. Words can not express your loss. May your good memories sustain everyone in the days and years ahead.

*Martin and Ruth Mets  
Florida*

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**martin** - December 31, 2019 at 11:42 AM

AC

“ *Mike and Mindy-We are thinking of you and all your extended family in the loss of Mike's father. What a special man he was and what exemplary service he gave to our nation! He will not be forgotten!*

*Allison and Cliff Collie*

*Greenwood, SC*



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**Allison Collie** - December 30, 2019 at 06:24 PM