



Mr. Harold "Hal" Baker Jr.

August 1, 1936 - December 29, 2016

Harold "Hal" Baker Jr. CM/SGT, USAF, Ret., of Port St. John, FL passed away on December 29, 2016 from complications of Parkinson's Disease. Hal was born on August 1, 1936 in Toledo, Ohio to Harold and Dorothy (Laskey) Baker. Graduating from Whitmer High School in 1954, he attended the University of Toledo, while serving in the Ohio National Guard. In January 1957, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and retired from the Air Force in December of 1986 after 33 years military service. After being transferred to Patrick AFB in 1972, Hal continued his education graduating from Rollins College, then going on to do graduate studies at the University of Central Florida. In 1987, when KSC began the Return to Space he went to work for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing at Kennedy Space Center, where he was a Manned Space Flight Honoree in 1994. He retired from Boeing in 2001. Hal was a 10 year cancer survivor and supported Relay for Life and Stand Up to Cancer. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity; Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society; 58th and 60th Fighter Interceptor Squadrons Reunion Group; Life Member - AFTAC Alumni Association; Armed Forces Top Enlisted Association; Air Force Sergeants' Association. He was a life-long Methodist and a member of 1st United Methodist Church of Port St. John for over 26 years. During his years in the church he served in several different lay leader positions including Certified Lay Speaker, Finance Chairman, served on two Building Committees and was the Sound Technician Coordinator for several years until failing health forced him to step back. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed playing tennis in his younger years and golf in his later years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, James and Herbert. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Shirley (Dresch) and four children, James (Yvonne) Baker, Merritt Island, FL; Harold (Yong Mi) Baker III, Huntsville, AL; Stephen (Penny) Baker, daughter, Ann (John) Bolduc, Port St. Lucie, FL; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; and nephews Jeffrey Baker and Kevin Baker

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1st United Methodist Church of Port St. John on Saturday, January 7 with a visitation at 2:30 and the service at 3:00. Interment will be at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. The family especially would like to thank the staff of Hospice of St. Francis for the care they provided.

To honor Hal, donations may be made to the Sanctuary Roof Fund, 1st United Methodist Church of Port St. John; Stand Up To Cancer; Wounded Warriors or Hospice of St. Francis.

Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery

Washington, DC,

Comments



“ Dave Thorson and the Ron Norris Family purchased the Fruits and Blooms Basket for the family of Mr. Harold "Hal" Baker Jr..



Dave Thorson and the Ron Norris Family - January 06, 2017 at 02:48 PM



“ Hal was a mentor for me at McDonnell Douglas back in the late 70's. He was in management and was handling all of the documentation for the upcoming Space Station. As a quality professional he was above reproach and we often shared stories about audits and the ensuing requirements of the new program. Any question was always answered and then followed up. Since Hal shared AFTAC with me we had a like bond and his wife Shirley was interested in our quests for Genealogy. What a great family and I certainly will miss our contacts with he and his family. He has earned his rest now he can take it until we meet again. I hope he bumps into Rusty Ridens because the 3 of us had quite a bit to share. Take care and I hope the family understands and is able to move forward. Take care Hal.....we love ya.
Clark and Ruth Creery

Clark Creery - January 01, 2017 at 01:44 PM



“ We knew Hal and we were happy that we met him. He always had a smile and a good word, although he never "minced" his words or feelings. He was soft spoken and could easily calm a person ready to "jump off the bridge". In a few words, he was a good....no, a great guy. At one of my stations, we were having some problems and who showed up on our doorstep..it was Hal. He quietly calmed the situation, stayed with us a few days and was off back home. We stayed friends for a long time and it was always good to talk to him. As others have said, he will be missed. There's not many of his kind left. Our kindest thoughts to you and your family. Frank & Edna Calenda

Frank & Edna Calenda - December 31, 2016 at 11:27 AM



“ Shirley, my sincere condolences. We have all lost a good man that set an example we should follow. I served with Hal on several occasions, and TDY's, he was a true friend and comrade. We talked on the phone several times about our various ills after we retired.

I will miss that, seeing him, and just knowing he was there. John (Horsch)

John Horsch - December 31, 2016 at 10:51 AM