

S.O.R.D. International Lifetime Achievement Award Biography of Colonel B. L. Bargery

September 26, 1933 – June 7, 2001



Colonel Bargery, a native of Ridgely, Tennessee, excelled in all of his endeavors his entire life. He was named Ridgely High School's "Valedictorian", "Class of 1951". Following high school he attended Memphis State University where he enrolled in the United States Air Force ROTC program where he rose to the rank of Group Commander and was chosen outstanding cadet of the junior class and was awarded the Air Force Association Medal. While in college he was also a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Upon graduating from college with Cum Laude honors he began his United States Air Force career as a 2nd Lieutenant. After completion of Air Force Flight School he became one of the Air Force's top combat decorated fighter pilots with a career spanning over 30 years of active duty service. As a Captain he earned top student laurel in his 30-man F-4 class at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ scoring a perfect 100 in the 10 week course. As a Major he was presented the "Well Done Award" in Europe for saving a 3 million dollar McDonnell F-4D Phantom. During his career he held numerous command positions as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Operations Staff Officer and as the Director of Operations Fighter/Reconnaissance/Electronic Warfare at Ninth Air Force as his final command prior to retirement. He was a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and Air War College where he earned his Master's from Troy State University.

Colonel Bargery's military awards include: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Device, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal Meritorious Service Medal, Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Tour Ribbon and Longevity Service Award Ribbon and Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

Colonel Bargery is survived by his wife Barbara, son Brett and daughter Shannon.

Colonel Bargery's life was exemplified by his lifetime of accomplishments as a Topgun fighter pilot, Commanding Officer and as a family man. This was demonstrated through his heroism, leadership and academic performance to name only a few. Colonel Bargery's lifetime achievements have set a standard for all to emulate. For his achievements S.O.R.D. International is proud to offer the "Colonel B. L. Bargery Lifetime Achievement Award" to honor one of Americas' hero's.