



## Maj. Donald Lloyd Thacher

August 12, 1933 - March 13, 2015

MAJ Donald Lloyd Thacher, (USAF) Ret., Age 81, passed away, in his home peacefully surrounded by family in Albuquerque New Mexico on March 13, 2015.

Donald is survived by his wife of 56 years, Elaine Thacher; Daughters, Terri Husmer and husband ,Dean, from Albuquerque, NM and Donise Mitchell and husband, Clay, from Camden Point, MO; seven grandchildren, Jason (Amanda) Montoya from Norwalk, IA, Jennifer (Capt. James) Gutierrez from Minot, ND, Jacqueline (Brian) Brazil from Lawrence, KS, Brandon (Jess) Smith from Albuquerque, NM, Cody Robinson from Phoenix, AZ, Hannah Smith from Albuquerque, NM, and Aspen Mitchell from Camden Point, MO; four great-grandchildren, Trace Montoya from Norwalk, IA, Urijah Smith from Albuquerque, NM, Delaney Gutierrez from Minot, ND, and Jameson Smith from Albuquerque, NM; and two sisters, Naida Schaefer from Albuquerque, NM and Verna Fergeson from Manchester, IA.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Mildred Thacher; and his brother, Floyd Thacher, JR.

Donald was born in 1933 in Manchester IA, the last of four children of Floyd and Mildred Thacher. He graduated from Manchester High School in 1951. Following high school Donald joined the Air Force and retired as a Major after 20 years of service. During his time in the Air Force he was set up on a blind date and after a promise of completing OCS married the love of his life, Elaine Abbas, in Lennox, SD. Following his career in the Air Force, Donald went on

to pursue his bachelor's degree in economics at the University of New Mexico where he graduated with distinction in 1979. Donald and Elaine discovered hot air ballooning where they eventually went on to purchase their first balloon. Ballooning has guided them on many adventures making friends, memories, and traditions. Donald has also been a lifelong member and greeter at Hoffmantown Church. When Donald was not busy with church or ballooning he enjoyed coffee with friends, spending time with family, listening to music, and entertaining the world with his one of a kind humor.

Friends may visit FRENCH – Wyoming Chapel on Monday, March 16, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Services will be held at Hoffmantown Church at 8888 Harper Dr. NE., on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 2:30 p.m. Interment will take place at Santa Fe National Cemetery on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to the Eagles' Wings Youth Ranch, PO Box 465 Mountainair, NM 87036.

# Cemetery Details

## Santa Fe National Cemetery

Santa Fe, NM

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Wyoming)

7121 Wyoming Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109

(505) 823-9400

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

## Funeral Service

MAR 17. 2:30 AM (MT)

Hoffmantown Church

8888 Harper Dr. NE

Albuquerque, NM

## Interment

MAR 18. 10:30 AM (MT)

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Santa Fe, NM



# Tribute Wall

CM

“ To my New Mexico family, I am very saddened by hearing of the loss of Uncle Don and wish that I could have made a trip to be with all of you. I hold many memories of Uncle Don in my heart. I always remember him whistling. He seemed to have a song in his heart at all times. May God wrap his loving arms around you all during this time. With Deepest Sympathies, Cathy Jo Myrabo, Canton, South Dakota

Cathy Myrabo - March 20, 2015 at 02:43 PM

JB

Thanks Cathy! Wish you could have made it as well- and yes G'pa is always whistling songs- and christmas ones in July ;) -Jackie

Jacqueline Brazil - March 23, 2015 at 01:48 PM

MJ

“ We send our deepest sympathies and condolences to Elaine, the children and grandchildren. Don was a fantastic man with a fantastic sense of humor. We are grateful for the chance to have known him and will always remember him with a big smile.

Christian and Marianne, Denmark

Marianne Johanssen - March 19, 2015 at 01:42 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Maj. Donald Lloyd Thacher.



March 17, 2015 at 12:51 PM

JD

“ We met Don 13 years ago and have been on the balloon crew ever since. We will remember him for his great smile, concern for others, and unique sense of humor. Jim and Nancy Dalton



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**Jim & Nancy Dalton** - March 17, 2015 at 12:32 PM

JB

Great Picture- thanks for always creating such wonderful creative things for my grandparents and being great friends and crew members.  
- Jackie

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**Jacqueline Brazil** - March 23, 2015 at 01:50 PM

CH

“ Met Don one early morning while trying to watch balloons taking off. He invited us to follow after take off We did and were invited to tail gate also. It was then I knew stalking was a good plan. I stalked until I was added to the group and have enjoyed Don the entire time. He is part of my family....I still love him and I'm sure he is in heaven. What a great fellow.

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**charlie howard** - March 17, 2015 at 09:16 AM

JB

sounds like grandpa :)

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**Jacqueline Brazil** - March 23, 2015 at 01:51 PM

MM

“ We will greatly miss Donald's wit and humor and kindness. He took us on our first hot air balloon ride up into the blue heavens. Now he looks down from those heavens and watches over all of us. Sending love and comfort to the Thacher family.

Love, Evelyn and Reynald J. (Marty) Martinez

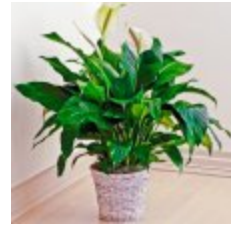


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**Marty Martinez** - March 17, 2015 at 01:19 AM

MP

“ Michael and Linda Pierce purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Maj. Donald Lloyd Thacher.



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**Michael and Linda Pierce** - March 16, 2015 at 02:04 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Maj. Donald Lloyd Thacher.



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March 16, 2015 at 01:50 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Maj. Donald Lloyd Thacher.*



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March 16, 2015 at 01:47 PM



“ *We have a special memory of Don. He came to our wedding in South Dakota all the way from the Philippines. He was a great brother in law. Bruce and Janice Vaught*

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**Janice Vaught** - March 16, 2015 at 10:50 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Deanne** - March 16, 2015 at 09:41 AM



*too cute! - G'pa loves the camera :)*

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**Jacqueline Brazil** - March 23, 2015 at 01:52 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Maj. Donald Lloyd Thacher.*



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March 16, 2015 at 09:22 AM



“ *Our deepest condolences to Don's family and friends. In tribute I will leave a joke for you.....Where does a peacock go when it loses its tail?  
(A re-tail store!)*

*Rest In Peace Grandpa Bananas.... You will be missed.*

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**Lori Nehring** - March 16, 2015 at 03:07 AM



*Loved your jokes during a hard time :)*

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**Jacqueline Brazil** - March 23, 2015 at 01:54 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. I'm so glad that he went peacefully. I know he will be greatly missed by the family.*

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**Janice L Paulsmeyer** - March 15, 2015 at 10:29 PM

TP

“ We feel fortunate to have gotten to know Don and his corny sense of humor. A sweet man who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The strong bond your family has will serve you well during this time of mourning. A huge circle of friends are gathered around you and a testament to the kindness of both Don and Elaine. All our love and sympathies,

Trish and Tom Parks, Phx Az

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**Trish Parks** - March 15, 2015 at 09:47 AM

BH

“ Bob & Jill Homer purchased the White Sympathy Baskets for the family of Maj. Donald Lloyd Thacher.



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**Bob & Jill Homer** - March 15, 2015 at 09:10 AM

HH

“ On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.

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**Harold Hamilton** - March 14, 2015 at 04:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**FRENCH Funerals & Cremations** - March 14, 2015 at 04:44 PM