



Brig. Gen. Junior Henry Burkhead, USANG (Ret.)

April 8, 1930 - April 15, 2014

Brig. Gen. Junior Henry Burkhead, USANG (Ret.), age 84, a resident of Albuquerque since 1991, died Tuesday, April 15, 2014. He is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Loretha; seven children, Thomas Burkhead and wife, Janet, Karen Hurley and husband, Tom, Linda Ann Thompson and husband, Larry, Lori Ann Burkhead, Timothy Burkhead and wife, Marcy, Cheri Sorber and husband, Joe, and Lisa Miller and husband, John; eleven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brothers, Duane Burkhead and Richard Burkhead and wife, Carol; sisters, Beverly Coyle and Connie Boehler; many nieces and nephews and a host of treasured friends, civilian and military. Brig. Gen. Burkhead was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Kathy Dianne; infant son, James Patrick; and parents, Henry Joseph and Edna Marie Burkhead. He was born in 1930 in rural Logan, Beebee Town, Harrison County, IA. He was the first of five children for Henry Joseph and Edna Marie (Emswiler) Burkhead. His heritage dates back to 1560 (over 400 years) to Bristol, Gloucester, England (fifteen generations and most were farmers like his father, grandfather and great-grandfather). The first seventeen years of his life he spent with his family on an eighty acre farm in Harrison County, Iowa. For eight years he attended a country school and then graduated from Missouri Valley High School in 1948. He was a graduate of Drake University with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. When he was thirteen years old, he prided himself on being able to hand husk one hundred bushels of corn per day by himself. Junior married Marjorie Clare McCrickard after high school

and they were blessed with three sons and six daughters. He was most proud of his family and relished his roles as husband, dad, grandpa and great-grandpa. Junior enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard at Sheldon, Iowa on June 23, 1948 as a Private in an Infantry Rifle Company and retired in June 10, 1991 as a Brigadier General. He served in combat in the 111 Corps Tactical Zone in Vietnam and was appointed in 1978 by Governor Robert D. Ray as Adjutant General of Iowa with a promotion to Brigadier General. After his tenure he was ordered to Washington and there he served as principal director to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Mobilization, Training and Readiness. He served over five years in the Pentagon. On June 1, 1991, The Secretary of Defense, Mr. Dick Cheney awarded a certificate of Retirement to Brigadier General Junior Henry Burkhead for 41 years and 10 months of faithful service to the United States Government. He received many other awards throughout his career. He was a life member of the National Guard Association of the United States, Association of the United States Army, The Retired Officers Association, Disabled American Veterans, Alumni Association of the US Army War College and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Upon his retirement, Junior returned to his heritage occupation, farming and ranching in the State of New Mexico. Before his death, he purchased a small horse ranch in the North Valley of Albuquerque. At the time of his death, he and his wife, Loretha operated a horse ranch and stable, Aunt Hazel's Stables, caring for eleven horses, and a fruit orchard, an occupation he dearly loved. Friends may visit FRENCH – Wyoming on Saturday, April 19, 2014 beginning at 12:00 p.m. Services will follow at 1:00 p.m. Brigadier General Burkhead will then be transported from Albuquerque to Hennessy-Annan Funeral Home in Missouri Valley, IA for final services with full military honors. His son, Colonel Thomas D. Burkhead, will escort his father to his final resting place. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Junior's name to the American Heart Association, 2201 San Pedro Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

FRENCH – Wyoming
7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE
(505) 823-9400

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **19**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Wyoming)

7121 Wyoming Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109

(505) 823-9400

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Services

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Tribute Wall

LC

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you,
Laura May Carlson, MSG (Retired), Iowa ARNG*

Laura May Carlson - April 28, 2014 at 03:07 PM

TJ

“ *The Burkhead name is synonymous with service, and the Iowa National Guard is fortunate to have had the Burkheads in many formations. May this Soldier RIP after a career and lifetime of service. God bless the Burkhead & Phipps family.*

Todd Jacobus - April 22, 2014 at 07:17 PM

DO

“ *BG Junior Burkhead was my boss at Gen Walter Anderson Armory Boone, IA. He was a very hard driving soldier that knew what he wanted and how to achieve it. Back in the late 60's and early 1970's he was just back from Vietnam. In uniform, he was a well dressed and good looking soldier. I shall remember him always as a very fair co-worker that accomplished tasks that no one else could. My condolences to the family and especially Lori and Tom whom I know well. MSG David Oppedahl (Ope)(Ret) Boone, IA*

David Oppedahl - April 19, 2014 at 10:41 AM

WD

“ It is with sadness that I learned of Gen. Burkhead's passing. He once wrote me that I was a "excellent officer," and I never forgot that. Gen. Burkhead was not only an outstanding leader, but he was also a friend. I visited him in Washington, D.C., along with then Capt. Phil Vermeer, and we stayed at his home. We had many great conversations, and Junior and I attended Mass together at that time. We also visited Arlington National Cemetery. To his son, Tom, and the Burkheads, I wish to offer my deepest sympathies and condolences. I was fortunate to have met both Junior and Tom and I have fond memories of both. God Bless...
Wayne Dominowski

Wayne Dominowski - April 18, 2014 at 09:09 PM

CD

“ I express my sincere condolences to the Burkhead Family. I grew up in Northwest Iowa and served with the 2d Bn Mechanized 133d Infantry. I served many years in the 2d Mech and could not think of the Mech without also thinking of Junior Burkhead. He was a great soldier and surely served his country, his family and those who boarded horses with him well. God Speed, Sir! <SALUTE>

COL(R) Randy DeKoter - April 18, 2014 at 07:00 PM

BP

“ My name is Brian Phillips,

I first want to say I owe everything to my wife Jose' as if it weren't for her I would have never met "THE MAN" Junior "Jay" Burkhead.

JAY- THROUGH MY EYES AND HEART.

I remember the day being down at Jays' Ranch (Aunt Hazels Stables) with Jose' and Jay showed up and Jose' said to me "I want you to meet Jay as he has been wanting to meet you and Jose' said but first I must warn you he has a handshake you will never forget- (I thought sure no big deal), when I shook his hand I had to check my hand afterwards as I thought my bones were popping out of my hand- as his grip was of steel, from that moment forward I believe that somehow we were meant to be "True Friends".

When I was between jobs Jay came to me and asked "Brian I want to make you a proposal to do some work for me" (How could I refuse him?) I really knew he wanted to help me out and vice versa. He would hand me a "Priority List" each list had about 20 items, and then another priority list and then another priority list.... I thought to myself gee Jay I'm one person not a Brigade:)

Jay and June would invite us over to their home and Jay would show me and talk in detail about the "Burkhead Family History Album" -Jay was Extremely Proud of the Album and History of the "Burkheads" and how hard he labored to produce the album and gave each family member a copy- It was that important that he wanted his family to know their history and roots.

Also, when we would bring dinner over to Jay and June, Jay would come to the front door looking at Jose' and I and say " Is this meals on wheels" :)

As for the Ranch (Aunt Hazels Stables), he poured his heart and soul into the ranch (Blood, Sweat and Tears) to Preserve and

Protect it for many future "Burkheads" to pass down and to keep the family history and heritage going- Jay's passion for the ranch is immeasurable- For everything on the ranch he knew exactly in detail every nut and bolt (as well as the sizes) and how many fruit were on each tree in the Orchard (How he Loves the Orchard)- Some people spend there later years hitting little white balls on the golf course but Jay instead dedicated his later life to the ranch (His Passion).

I remember when he fired up the bush hog and said "hey Brian" come here I want to show you how this works and said "give it a try"- I said ok- this is pretty neat- and when I turned around-- He disappeared :)

Another time I was working the front pasture (it was about 99 degrees) and Jay comes riding up to me on his tractor and said "Hey Brian- looks like you could use a break- hop on the back of the tractor- I thought great I could use a little break from this heat- well after I climbed on the back we proceeded to the back SW pasture (took about 4 minutes) he stopped the tractor and said ok- Brian you see all these branches lying in the corner- we need to get those and put them in the bucket of the tractor and take them to the dumpster--" so much for my break" :)

I feel Honored and consider it a Privilege that he allowed me to care for Chanese (his TW), I know he felt complete comfort in knowing that he didn't have to worry because he knew she was being taken care of- He would brag about her when we would see him at their home and with a Smile he would say to me" You know why she looks great" it's because of the Love, Attention and Grooming you give her.

Jay has ALWAYS been LOVING, CARING always Complimentary on anything we have ever done for him and June.

JAY- I LOVE YOU AND I WILL MISS YOU- for you have taught me

many things and for that I am eternally Grateful, You will always be in my Heart Forever!,

This is the "MAN I KNOW" through my eyes and Heart- My Dear Best Friend JAY!!

Brian & Jose' Phillips

Brian Phillips - April 18, 2014 at 06:28 PM

GT

“Gerald and Gale Henke, Natalie and Tyler purchased the Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers for the family of Brig. Gen. Junior Henry Burkhead, USANG (Ret.).



Gerald and Gale Henke, Natalie and Tyler - April 18, 2014 at 06:28 AM

HH

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

Harold Hamilton - April 16, 2014 at 03:39 PM