



Dr. Donald Brown Cobb

August 6, 1930 - July 26, 2012

Friends who wish may sign the memorial register at the Stumpff Funeral Home or the on-line memorial register on this site.

There will be no public viewing or visitation and private services will be held at a later date.

Dr. Donald Cobb Brown

My daddy died on July 26th, 2012 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. While father and son relationships can be contentious at best, I wanted to point out certain aspects of his life that make me proud to be his son.

Don Cobb was born August 6, 1930 in Reseda, California to Glen and Mabel Cobb. At the time his father was the San Fernando Valley distributor for the Los Angeles Evening Express Newspaper.

By 1932, the family moved back to their hometown of Durant, Oklahoma and Don graduated from Durant High School in 1948.

Don attended Southeastern State University in Durant from 1948 to 1950 before enlisting in the United States Air Force in 1951.

He was assigned to pilot training at Bryan Air Force Base in Bryan, Texas and graduated with the 1952 "G" class.

What followed was air to ground combat training at Bainbridge, Georgia and then air to air combat training at Orlando Air Force Base in Florida.

At 22 years of age, Don was assigned to the 311th Fighter Bomber Squadron based at K2 Air Base in Taegu, Korea during the Korean War. He flew F84 Thunderjets on missions not only in North Korea but into communist China. At

the time the United States denied any military action in China and it was well known among pilots that if you were shot down north of the Yalu River it might be years before you were repatriated.

Don remained in Korea until 1953 and was actually flying a mission over North Korea when the Armistice officially ending hostilities was signed on July 27, 1953.

After Korea, Don was chosen to be part of one of the first Transatlantic refueling flights of F84 Thunderjets and KB29 Tankers from Bryan, Texas to Sturgate, England. The pilots knew all too well that if something went wrong over the chilly North Atlantic in a small fighter jet that the chances for survival were extremely slim.

By 1954; at the tender age of 24, Don was once again chosen to be part of an elite group of pilots based at Gardermoen Air Force Base in Norway.

Each pilot was on 24 hour alert status and carried a live nuclear weapon on the belly of their F84 Thunderjet. In the event of war, Don's target was a Russian submarine base on the Baltic Sea.

After Norway, Don worked for North American Aviation teaching Navy pilots to fly their version of the F86 Sabrejet. He also briefly considered becoming a commercial airline pilot for Eastern Airlines.

In 1956 Don decided to go back to Southeastern State University in Durant and finish his degree with the ultimate goal of entering Optometry school.

He married Lavon Lewis of Antlers, Oklahoma in 1958 and graduated from Southern College of Optometry in 1960.

After a brief stint with Dr. G.W. Clay in Ardmore, Oklahoma; Dr. Cobb opened his Optometry practice in Bartlesville in the spring of 1962.

He continued to practice until his retirement 49 years later in 2011.

Dr. Cobb was preceded in death by his parents Glen and Mabel Cobb of Durant. His wife Lavon Cobb of Bartlesville and a sister Sarah Cobb Jackson of Kansas City.

He is survived by his son, Dr. Bradley Cobb of Bartlesville and a daughter in law Kelly Cobb as well as two grandchildren Dallas and Taylor Cobb of

Bartlesville.

Arrangements through Stumpff Funeral Home of Bartlesville.

[PDF Printable Version](#)

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Donald Brown Cobb*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Dr. Donald Brown Cobb*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *On behalf of the Bartlesville Indian Women's Club we would like to express our deepest sympathy. Please know you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this time.*

Bartlesville Indian Women's Club - July 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mavis and I were patients of Dr Cobb for many years. He was always very courteous and thorough. He always spoke to us wherever we met. I am saddened by his passing. Max Patton*

Max & Mavis Patton - July 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ *Brad,*

You and your family are in my prayers. God Bless you!

Gayle

Gayle Miller - July 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ *Brad my heart goes out to you Kelly and the boys. Comfort each other by remembering the good times with him for those memories can never be taken away.*

Shell

Shelli Brittain - July 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Donald as they honor his life and legacy during this time.*

Staff at Stumpff Funeral Home - July 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM