



## Lt. Col. Earnest Lynn Farnsworth, USAF (Ret.)

January 18, 1942 - January 4, 2024

Earnest Lynn Farnsworth of Roswell, Georgia passed away on January 4, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 57 years Karen Farnsworth, his 6 children Alan (Ellen), Camille, Aime (Jerry), Christopher (Fabricia), Kyle (Maria), and Joye (Matt), 18 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his immediate family, Lynn is survived by his brother Jack (Ellen) and sister-in-law Sandy Farnsworth. He was preceded in death by his parents Eva Elma (Haynie) and Carl Alonzo Farnsworth, and brothers Larry and Fred Farnsworth.

Lynn was born January 18, 1942 in Douglas, Arizona to Eva and Carl Farnsworth. The family soon moved to Farmington, New Mexico and Lynn was raised there on the family cattle ranch. He was the only little boy in America who was a cowboy but didn't want to be Roy Rogers – he wanted to be a pilot. So much so, that at the age of 14 he fudged his age and joined the New Mexico National Guard.

He graduated from Farmington High School in 1959. He then served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to France, Belgium and Luxemburg from 1960-1962, after which he returned to BYU to receive degrees in Political Science and French. He was a member of BYU Air Force ROTC and upon graduation was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Air Force.

He received his pilot wings at Vance AFB in 1966, after which he served three tours in Vietnam flying various aircraft including the EC-47, F-100 and F-4

Fighter. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster and 2 Purple Hearts. He was shot down twice while flying as a Misty FAC on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Lynn served our country for 36 years, retiring in 1994 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. While flying as an F-105 instructor with the Kansas Air National Guard, he simultaneously flew with Eastern Airlines, ValuJet, and Air Tran Airways. In 2007 he began racing his own plane - Miss Karen II - a Lancair Super Legacy, at the Reno Air Races. He flew in the races every year through 2019.

In 2020, Lynn was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This ended his flying but did not end him being Superman. After receiving the most arduous chemotherapy and radiation treatments, he defied the odds and was declared cancer-free. Over the next 3.5 years he developed a new interest in other flying objects - birds – and often commented that crows landed like Navy pilots.

Above all else, Lynn loved his Savior, Jesus Christ, and his family. When he wasn't coaching or watching events for his children and grandchildren, he enjoyed watching baseball and BYU sports.

Lynn will be buried at The Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA on Friday, January 12th. A celebration of his life will be held the same day at 12:00 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on Norcross Street in Roswell, GA.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lynn's name may be made to Wounded Warrior Project.

# Cemetery Details

## Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Dr  
Canton, GA 30114  
(770) 479-9300

# Previous Events

## Celebration Of Life

JAN 12. 12:00 PM (ET)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
500 Norcross St.  
Roswell, GA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Light* was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. Earnest Lynn Farnsworth, USAF (Ret.).



January 09, 2024 at 09:41 PM



“ Love, The Kellis Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lt. Col. Earnest Lynn Farnsworth, USAF (Ret.).

**Love, The Kellis Family** - January 09, 2024 at 06:17 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. Earnest Lynn Farnsworth, USAF (Ret.).



January 09, 2024 at 06:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. Earnest Lynn Farnsworth, USAF (Ret.).



January 09, 2024 at 01:47 PM

TM

“ Lynn is one of those quiet heroes that are rare among us... Carol and I are grateful to have known your wonderful family for the past 44 years and treasure the opportunity to have you as our friends.

*I remember you reminding me that in a world where “Old Bold Pilots” are rare, that you were married to one. Bold is not strong enough to describe him. I’m not sure if there is a word that compresses Bold, Wise, Smart, Loving, Caring, and Fearless into one word.*

*He is one of those rare individuals who is a real man... A man’s man. A man who walks into a room and his countenance alone reflects the depth of his profoundly deep character. That is Lynn... who I know now receives a set of wings that will fully unleash his ability to soar among the stars.... Yet I strongly feel he will continue to lovingly assist his adored posterity until all are gathered home with him.*

*Jusqu'à ce jour..... Vole haut mon ami. Nous te manquerons jusqu'à ce que nous nous revoyions.*

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**Tom & Carol McKinney** - January 09, 2024 at 10:11 AM

LB

“ Laurie Mei and Bryany planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lt. Col. Earnest Lynn Farnsworth, USAF (Ret.).

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**Laurie Mei and Bryany** - January 09, 2024 at 08:27 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lt. Col. Earnest Lynn Farnsworth, USAF (Ret.).*



January 09, 2024 at 08:27 AM



“ *I'm so sorry. Mr Lynn was such a kind man and welcomed me at Crabapple Academy. Your whole family did. He was so very special and I'm praying for your entire family. ☐*

**Kathi Guild** - January 09, 2024 at 07:39 AM



“ *I met Lynn on my very first day as a flight attendant at ValuJet. A friendship was formed that would last 30 years. We shared a love of baseball and we became family. It has been such an honor to stay connected all these years. Lynn had a huge influence on my life and I can't imagine it without him. He's left such a wonderful legacy and so many great stories to help ease the pain. Love to Karen and the entire family. Our hero is flying high once again. 🙏❤️*

**Gina Katz Kellis** - January 08, 2024 at 09:38 PM



*He adored you and thought of you as a 4th daughter. Thank you for your sweet thoughts.*

**Karen** - January 08, 2024 at 09:51 PM

BB

*Lynn was a true American hero in the truest sense. One can read about some of his war experiences in the book Misty by Major General Don Shepperd which compiles fist-hand war experiences of the Misty air group pilots flying and fighting over North Viet Nam during the war. A few years ago I was at the Oshkosh Air Show in Wisconsin and had the chance to talk with Dick Rutan, one of Lynn's fellow Misty pilots. If you are an aviation enthusiast, you know that Dick Rutan was the first man to build and fly an airplane non-stop around the world. His aircraft, the Voyager, is on display in the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum on the Capital Mall in DC. I asked Dick if he remembered Lynn and he said, "Sure, he's been flying in the Reno Air Show!" The Misty pilots include many other immensely notable and accomplished people as recorded in the book and Lynn is among the best of that group. I happened to be attending a youth fireside chat several years ago with Lynn talking about his war experience. He mentioned that he was given a blessing before leaving for war that the blessing promised he would be safe. His story reminded me of Ammon, the son of a king in the Book of Mormon, who left to live in enemy territory with a blessing from his father that he would return safely. As Ammon did, Lynn fought fearlessly not only having the blessing but believing it was true. Even after having his plane shot down twice he still boldly and bravely continued the fight as he has ever since. One of the great honors of my life has been to just sit in the back of the church near a man like Lynn Farnsworth.*

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**Brent Bailey** - January 09, 2024 at 11:51 AM

 Flavinha Noletto

*Ainda sabendo que a morte vem de Deus, quando nós não a provocarmos, não podemos, por enquanto, na Terra receber a morte com alegria porque ninguém recebe um adeus com felicidade, mas podemos receber a separação com fé em Deus, entendendo que um dia nos reencontraremos todos numa vida maior e essa esperança deve aquecer-nos o coração.*

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**Flavinha Noletto** - January 09, 2024 at 04:55 PM

RA

*I flew with Lynn as fellow instructors in the F-105 with the Kansas Air National Guard. I fondly remember him as a quiet hero - when on the ground. When the canopies went down, he had a personality change. When in the aircraft he was a no-nonsense leader. I remember shuddering when listening to him over the radio as he sternly urged a student to "move into the correct position." I marveled at his experiences flying with Misty FACs in Viet Nam and the stories of his two shoot downs and ejections. I lost contact with Lynn after he left Kansas but would occasionally learn of his continued flying career and of his racing at the Reno Air Races. He was a true American hero for whom I had great admiration.*

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**Russ Axtell** - January 18, 2024 at 08:02 AM

KA

*Thank you, for the insight and kind tribute. We miss him.*

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**Karen** - March 22, 2024 at 10:12 AM