

Douglas Rafford Brown

July 12, 1951 - October 8, 2021

Douglas Rafford Brown, 70, passed away suddenly on Friday, October 7, 2021.

He was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, class of 1973, and he served more than 20 years in the US Air Force. He served on many bases as a member of the Security Police force. On September 11, 2001, he survived the attack on the Pentagon and wore his commemorative lapel pin with pride. In February 1984, as Chief of Police of Bergstrom AFB, he supervised the successful resolution of a hostage situation at the base hospital. The hostage-taker surrendered peacefully after seven hours, and no shots were fired. This was the only hostage situation on a continental USAF base.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1993, Doug made the transition to civilian contractor and continued his work in security with an emphasis on computer security. He continued working in this field until his death.

Doug was descended from the first settlers of New Haven, Connecticut. Born on July 12, 1951, he was the first of this Brown family line to be born outside the state of Connecticut. He was born in Wilmington, DE to William "Bill" Morris Brown, Jr., and Vera Janette "Jean" Brown.

Doug was fond of camping and working with the Boy Scouts. As the father of 3 Eagle Scouts, he helped many boys discover the joys of camping and the outdoors. He was also renowned for his abilities in cooking over an open campfire, especially using cast iron skillets and Dutch ovens.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Melinda Sutton Brown of Waldorf, MD; his sister, Patricia (Tom) Bailey of Wilmington, DE; and two nieces, Amanda (Bill) Delcampo, Wilmington, DE and Jennifer Bailey of Philadelphia, PA.

Doug was most proud of his three sons, who all survive him: Stewart Christopher (Eileen) Brown, currently of Toronto, Canada; Trevor Franklin (Lizzie) Brown of Herndon, VA; and Kirby William (Emily) Brown of Salisbury, MD. He is also survived by two adorable grandsons, Isaac William, aged three, and Peter Wade, six weeks old. Doug's mother, father, and grandfather were all

certified genealogists. Having three sons and two grandsons to continue his family line was very important to this family.

A memorial service will be held later in the fall when all family members are able to attend (due to COVID restrictions). A private burial will held at Arlington National Cemetery when possible.

Donations may be made to the Memorial Fund, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Piney Parish, Waldorf, MD 20602.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Douglas Rafford Brown*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Douglas Rafford Brown*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Melinda and Family - I am so very sorry to hear of the passing of Doug. The Browns lived next door to our family in Claymont and, later, down the street from us in Chatham. He was one of my best friends growing up and the Browns were like a second family to me and my brothers. We shared many adventures in elementary school and high school. I always found him to be kind, curious about the world, and - funny! One of my last memories of Doug's mom, Jean, was her proudly telling me what a wonderful wife he found in Melinda. I will always regret that my career and constant traveling caused me to loose track of a good friend. On behalf of the entire McClane family, I send you our most heartfelt thoughts and prayers as you deal with this challenging loss.*

Joe McClane

Joseph C. McClane - November 15, 2021 at 09:40 AM



“ *My heartfelt condolences go out to the Brown family. My experience with Doug was that of co-worker, mentor and confidante. He always made time for our mentorship sessions and due to his vast experience, was full of great advice. Doug will be sorely missed. May God be with you in your time of grief.*

Byron C. - October 19, 2021 at 09:12 AM

UR

“ We were surprised and saddened to hear about Doug's passing. He was such a good guy. We're going to miss him so much, too.

Urie Reed - October 18, 2021 at 12:17 PM

DP

“ Doug and I shared our last active duty assignments together as part of the Air Force Systems Command Security Staff at Andrews AFB, MD and were neighbors in Waldorf, MD. We also shared lengthy post-service employment with Aegis Research Corporation and ManTech International. Always a true mentor, confidante and friend, I will truly miss our talks, jokes and stories of shared experiences and mutual friends.

Donovan Proft - October 17, 2021 at 06:43 PM

NP

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Brown family. Doug was the most incredible person I've ever met. I was blessed to work for him for 6+ years. I always looked forward to our discussions, his guidance and encouragements but most of all his insights. He will be missed on so many levels. And while he may be gone, he will never be forgotten.

Noelle Putnam - October 15, 2021 at 09:14 PM

SG

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Doug was kind and wise and always mentored with a great attitude. I learned so much from working with Doug in DC. He was a joy to work with and he will be deeply missed by so many.

Summer Gaud - October 15, 2021 at 05:32 PM

CU

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss.

I worked closely with Doug in DC the last several years. He was a wealth of knowledge and always knew just how to fix any problem we might be having. We knew Doug would have the fix and very much appreciated him for it!

It was always clear how absolutely devoted Doug was to his family. Above all else, we all knew how much he adored his wife, sons and grandsons. I hope the many happy and fun memories he told us about help you remember him with a smile.

Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Christine Uptain - October 15, 2021 at 12:49 PM

KM

“ Kevin May lit a candle in memory of Douglas Rafford Brown



Kevin May - October 15, 2021 at 08:34 AM

KM

“ My deepest condolences to the entire family. I have enjoyed many talks with Doug, he was a great friend and one that I am going to miss considerably.

Kevin May

Kevin May - October 15, 2021 at 08:33 AM

JL

“ My deepest condolences to the Brown Family. Doug was a huge staple of our work Family. He was smart, kind, patient and humble wrapped into one great man. He was friendly to everyone and never missed an opportunity to say a kind word of encouragement or speak the volumes of knowledge he had. I would talk to him a great length and all of his stories were ones you could listen to always. He loved his Family dearly and often shared stories of his wife, and news of his sons and grandsons. Thank you for your wisdom, and service to your country. You will be greatly missed.



Janalea Lopez

Janalea Lopez - October 15, 2021 at 07:50 AM

DM

“ My deepest condolences to the Brown family. I worked with Doug daily while I was assigned to DC, and had the opportunity to talk with Doug several times a year after I transferred out west. Anytime I made it back to DC, Doug was also one of my mandatory stops. You will be missed, my friend. Thank you for your friendship, wisdom and service to our country. Rest easy, brother.

Dean Maloney - October 14, 2021 at 11:15 PM

TW

“ Doug was one of the finest gentlemen I've had the pleasure of knowing in my life. Kind, gentle, caring and committed are just a few words that come to mind as I reflect on my time spent with Doug. He cared deeply about our security mission, finding the best people to perform the mission and then taking care of those people - his (work) family. I smile thinking of him "easing" around the corner to have a chat - I will miss those chats and this friend. Rest well, Doug.

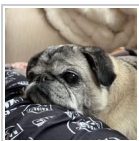
Tom Welch
OSI PJ

Thomas Welch - October 14, 2021 at 08:11 PM



“ Doug was an amazing man and someone I am proud to have known the past seven years. I am honored to be able to call him a friend. I will miss his grin and laugh, but most of all I will miss seeing him each day and having conversations with him.

Andrew Kiser - October 14, 2021 at 07:08 PM



“ Melinda and family - I am still in shock over this loss! I have known Doug many years and enjoyed our talks. He was a great person and friend. We will miss his stories and humor. Godspeed my friend till we meet again! Marcia

Marcia Bradley - October 14, 2021 at 07:00 PM

TP

“ I send my deepest condolences to the Brown Family. Doug was a huge part of our work Family. He was brilliant, witty, patient and humble wrapped into one great man. He was a friend to everyone and never missed an opportunity to say a kind word of encouragement. He loved his Family and often shared news of his sons and grandsons.

Doug had an amazing career and wonderful life. His impacts to National Security will be felt for generations. We will miss him greatly.

Terry Phillips, OSI PJ

Terry Phillips - October 14, 2021 at 12:20 PM