

## PERSONAL HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF A R T H U R J A Y B A R K E R

JAY BARKER, BORN AS ARTHUR JAY BARKER ENTERED THIS LIFE AS A PREMATURE CAESAREAN BIRTH ON NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 1946 IN DENVER, COLORADO TO ELVIE H. AND MAX R. BARKER. HE WAS THE YOUNGER OF TWO SONS BORN TO THE BARKERS AND IS SURVIVED BY HIS FATHER, MAX, HIS BROTHER, RAY, AND NUMEROUS AUNTS, UNCLES, NIECES, NEPHEWS, LOVERS, AND FRIENDS. HE WAS ALWAYS BOASTFUL OF THE FACT THAT HE ONLY WEIGHED TWO POUNDS ELEVEN OUNCES AT BIRTH BUT HE GREW. . . . .

JAY RECEIVED HIS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FROM SOUTH DENVER HIGH SCHOOL AND WENT ON TO BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY IN PROVO, UTAH WHERE, IN 1969, HE RECEIVED NOT ONLY HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE, BUT ALSO A COMMISSION AS AN OFFICER IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE. WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY, HE COMPLETED UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING AT WILLIAMS AFB IN ARIZONA, GRADUATING 16<sup>TH</sup> IN HIS CLASS OF 100 STUDENTS. HE WAS THEN ASSIGNED TO THE 3<sup>RD</sup> AIRBORNE COMMAND AND CONTROL SQUADRON AT GRISSOM AFB, INDIANA WHERE HE SERVED WITH THE STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND FOR EIGHT YEARS. WHILE IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY, JAY ATTENDED BALL STATE UNIVERSITY IN MUNCIE AND IN 1975, COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE HIS MASTER'S DEGREE IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY. A NEW ASSIGNMENT IN 1978 BROUGHT THEN CAPTAIN BARKER TO THE 55<sup>TH</sup> WEATHER RECONAISSANCE SQUADRON AT MCCLELLAN AFB, CALIFORNIA WHERE HE FURTHER BUILT UPON HIS FLYING EXPERIENCE AS AN INSTRUCTOR PILOT IN THE C-135 OR BOEING 707/720 AIRCRAFT. HE ADDITIONALLY COMPLETED WORK FOR HIS DOCTORAL DEGREE AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY IN SACRAMENTO. AT MCCLELLAN, HE FLEW GLOBAL MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND NASA, BEING SELECTED FOR PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF MAJOR IN 1981 AS

THE CHIEF PILOT FOR RECEIVER REFUELING TRAINING. THAT SAME YEAR, AN OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT TOOK JAY TO JAPAN WHERE HE SERVED IN THE COMMAND ADVISORY FACILITY AS A SENIOR OPERATIONS OFFICER MONITORING THE PEACETIME AERIAL RECONAISSANCE PROGRAM FOR TWO YEARS AND DEVELOPING A LOVE FOR SUSHI! AT THE END OF HIS OVERSEAS TOUR, MAJOR BARKER'S HIGH EXPERIENCE LEVELS IN THE 135 BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THE 55TH WHERE HE CULMINATED A 20 YEAR CAREER IN DECEMBER OF 1989, HAVING SERVED AS AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, INSTRUCTOR, FLIGHT EXAMINER, CHIEF OF RECEIVER AIR REFUELING, AND FLIGHT SIMULATOR INSTRUCTOR IN THE WC-135 AIRCRAFT.

THIRTY DAYS AFTER RETIRING FROM ACTIVE DUTY, JAY ACQUIRED A PILOT POSITION AS FIRST OFFICER WITH WORLD AIRWAYS TO FLY THE BOEING 747-200 SERIES AIRCRAFT. FOLLOW-ON TRANSITIONS TO THE MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS DC-10, FLYING INTERNATIONAL CHARTER AND CARGO, AND LATER, THE MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS MD-11, A STATE-OF-THE-ART AVIONICS AIRCRAFT. THERE HE GAINED THE EXPERIENCE LEVELS NECESSARY TO FLY AS "CAPTAIN" OF THIS LONG RANGE WIDE-BODY AIRCRAFT IN 1995. HE SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY UNTIL June 2005. (CHOOSE ONE FROM BELOW)

- A.) REACHING THE MANDATORY PILOT RETIREMENT AGE
- B.) THE ACCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN HIS DEATH
- C.) CONTRACTING THE ILLNESS THAT RESULTED IN HIS DEATH
- D.) HE BECAME A CRUSTY OLD FART AND DIED
- E.) HE FOUND A CLOUD IN THE HEAVENS THAT WOULD HOLD HIM!

HIS LEGACY IS ONE OF "LOVE" . . . . LOVE FOR HIS GOD, LOVE FOR HIS FAMILY, LOVE OF HIS CAREER, AND CERTAINLY A LOVE FOR HIS FRIENDS, LIFE-PARTNERS, AND PETS. HE WOULD SAY "THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!"