



## Marlyn R. Bonacker

January 14, 1926 - December 29, 2021

Marlyn R. Bonacker was born in Burt, Iowa on Jan 14th 1926 to Amos and Rose Bonacker, grew up there until the family moved to Oregon in the early 1940's. He joined the Army Air Force in 1944 and served as a B-17 tail-gunner in England near the end of WWII. During a combat mission, his aircraft went down over Germany, and he was imprisoned and escaped. After WWII he continued his flying service including aerial mapping of Brazil and served as a crew chief on transport aircraft in Japan during the Korean War, in Texas and the Hawaiian Islands. He transferred into electronics and computers in 1960 and initially worked in airfield control equipment maintenance. He subsequently was a senior computer operations and maintenance NCO in critical missile launch and satellite operations for over a decade, where he was selected for promotion to Chief Master Sergeant, the highest enlisted rank. He culminated his 30+ year Air Force career as a squadron First Sergeant in 1975. After retiring from the Air Force, he and his wife Lea resided in Ft Myers, FL for over 30 years where he was active in professional, community and family activities. He relocated to Monterey, TN in 2011 and passed away on Dec 29th, 2021, at his home.

He was preceded in death by Lea Viera Bonacker, his wife of 62 years and "love of his life", whom he met in Brazil. He is survived by his brother Gerald Bonacker, sister Judy Luckey, his daughters Lucia Chockley, Linda Hamel (Michael), Angela Huber Lienhardt (Tim), and his grandchildren, Steven and

Brandon Chockley, Megan and Sean Hamel, Garren Huber, Chris and Jordan Lienhardt and four great grandchildren.

Marlyn was a dedicated AF NCO, veteran and patriot, a loving husband and father, a dreamer and friend to all. Full of life, ever inquisitive and cheerful, a captivating storyteller, always ready to lend a hand – he impacted so many people in so many ways. He had a very blessed life and will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

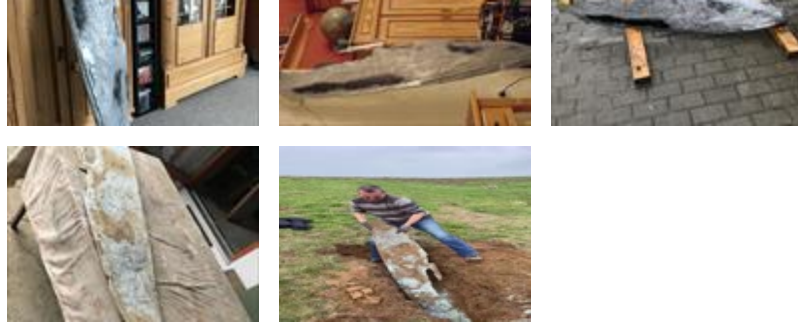
A “Celebration of His Life” will be held in early 2022; his interment alongside of Lea at Arlington National Cemetery is expected in early 2023.

# Tribute Wall

FW

“ Sehr geehrte Familie Bonacker,  
Mein Name ist Frank Wacker aus Sachsen/Deutschland.  
Ich beschäftige mich seit einiger Zeit mit dem  
Kriegsgeschehen, hauptsächlich dem Luftkrieg in unserer Region im  
WW2.  
Vor einiger Zeit kam ich durch die beachtenswerte Dokumentation  
"Als Leisnig einer Katastrophe entging", von Klaus Schumann und  
Horst Ries zu den interessanten Begebenheiten welche sich im  
Leipziger Raum damals abspielten.  
Im Zuge einiger Recherchen ,welche ich im Gebiet des Absturzes  
der beiden Maschinen unternahm, fand ich anhand des  
Aufklärungsfotos der USSAF im besagten Buch die Absturzstelle  
von der Maschine von M. Bonacker, also der B-17 G, 43-38801  
"Ruth".  
Beim Absonden der Stelle, welche man anhand des Foto sehr gut  
eingrenzen konnte, fand ich zuerst wiedererwarten nur ganz wenige  
kleine Teile.  
Dies ist erfahrungsgemäß äußerst seltsam. Meist liegen an solchen  
Stellen Unmengen an Metallteilen, welche durch die Wucht des  
Crashs und Explosion von Munition und Treibstoff entsteht.  
Letztlich fand ich ,zusammen mit meinem Sohn dann doch noch ein  
einzigartiges Artefakt und Bruchteil der Maschine, eines der zwölf  
Propellerblätter.  
Die Freude war natürlich riesig über ein Teil mit so einer  
einzigartigen Geschichte dazu.  
Anbei sende ich Euch dazu paar Bilder dieses Fundes und dessen  
Restauration.  
Das Teil steht jetzt in meinem Wohnzimmer und ist somit der  
Nachwelt erhalten. Ich gedenke stets beim Anblick auch den  
mutigen jungen Männern, welche leider auch oft ihr Leben geben  
mussten in dieser traurigen Zeit.  
Ich hoffe Ihr habt ein wenig Freude beim Anblick der Bilder, welche  
doch sehr in Verbindung mit Eurem Lieben Familienmitglied stehen.  
Viele Grüße aus Deutschland  
Frank Wacker





Frank Wacker - October 10, 2024 at 03:47 PM



“ *Marlyn R. Bonacker*

October 08, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Garden Accent - "Perhaps the stars..." was purchased for the family of Marlyn R. Bonacker.*



January 23, 2022 at 04:06 PM



“ *Garden Accent - "Those we love don't go away..." was purchased for the family of Marlyn R. Bonacker.*



January 23, 2022 at 04:01 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - *"Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Marlyn R. Bonacker.*



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January 23, 2022 at 03:57 PM



“ *I was truly blessed to have met Marlyn a couple of years ago and thoroughly enjoyed several conversations as well as those captivating stories he shared about a life well lived. He was amazing and inspiring with the ability to show genuine interest in everyone he met. He was full of life and had a great sense of humor. It was heartwarming to hear him talk about his wife with so much love and respect, I only wish I had the chance to have met that wonderful woman. The love and pride of family was so apparent in every conversation I had with him. My husband and I were fortunate to have met and befriend his daughters who are every bit as gracious, loving and inspiring as their father. I will always have warm memories of sitting amongst Marlyn's family in awe of such deep love they all shared for each other. I will never forget Marlyn sitting at the dinner table watching his family engaging in lively conversation, looking so very proud and happy with a big smile on his face. I think Marlyn is still watching and smiling. RIP my friend for a life well lived and a job well done.*



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**Kathy Mackey** - January 23, 2022 at 03:41 PM



“ *Rest now in peace, my friend. Your example of a life well-lived is noted by all of us around you and those souls you touched. Thanks for sharing your life with us. We are better for it.*

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**Mark Gurley** - January 07, 2022 at 09:01 AM

MH

“ Will never forget ya Grandpa Ice! So many memories, too many to list here. FOREVER in our HEARTS :) You and grammie (Vovo) are together again, god love ya! XOXO

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**Megan Hamel** - January 06, 2022 at 03:50 PM