



LIVING LEGACY



HERBERT "DOUG" BARNETTE

Born: November 4, 1944
Served: 1965-1973
U.S. Air Force



Herbert Douglas Barnette was born on November 4, 1944, in Birch River, Nicholas County, West Virginia. He is the son of the late Oliver Vaughn and Dorothy Rose (Perkins) Barnette. Doug is one of three children, second in birth order to an older brother and younger sister.

Doug spent his total years of schooling in the Jane Lew School District, graduating in 1962. In the fall of that year, he entered Fairmont State College, majoring in psychology. He remained a student there from 1962-1964. Doug left college in the spring of 1964, reasoning that his military draft number was due to be called. He wished to serve his country in the branch of service of his choosing rather than just being assigned. In the interim time between leaving college and his enlistment in the Air Force, Doug mainly worked construction jobs in his area of residence in West Virginia.

Prior to his entering military service, Doug was administered the Defense Department's Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery of tests. This is a series of timed, multi-aptitude exams which is designed to guide military personnel in determining what best suits an individual as far as specific military occupational training. He received exceptionally high scores overall, and especially in the area of technology. He was deemed to be able to acquire and process high-level information at a rapid rate in this area of study.

Doug's date of enlistment was May 15, 1965, with Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, being his place of entry into

active service in the Air Force. Doug would find this tour of duty to be three years, two and one-half months, including time spent at Da Nang Air Force Base in Vietnam and in Kunsan Air Force Base, South Korea.

Doug was sent to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas for his eight weeks of basic training. Having successfully completed his assignment there, he was transferred to Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado, known primarily as a training facility for airmen. It was there that he became a specialist in "Missile Guidance and Control Systems." These warhead missiles of destruction were designed to electronically target enemy aircraft, including maneuvers of air-to-air combat and air-to-ground combat.

In December of 1965, Doug was transferred to Suffolk County Air Force Base located at West Hampton Beach, New York. There he continued intense training in the guidance systems of warheads, refining and updating their targeting ability. Technology for his area of specialization continued to change at a rapidly increasing rate, and he was charged with continually learning new system applications.

Doug received orders a year later, in December of 1966, stating he was being sent to Da Nang Air Base in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Southeast Asia. This military base was primarily comprised of about 3,000 Air Force and Marine military personnel. He received top security clearance and was assigned to Squadron 366. Doug headed this group of 40 men as their supervisor in their quest to elevate and enhance the engineering of internal guidance systems of missiles. These missile

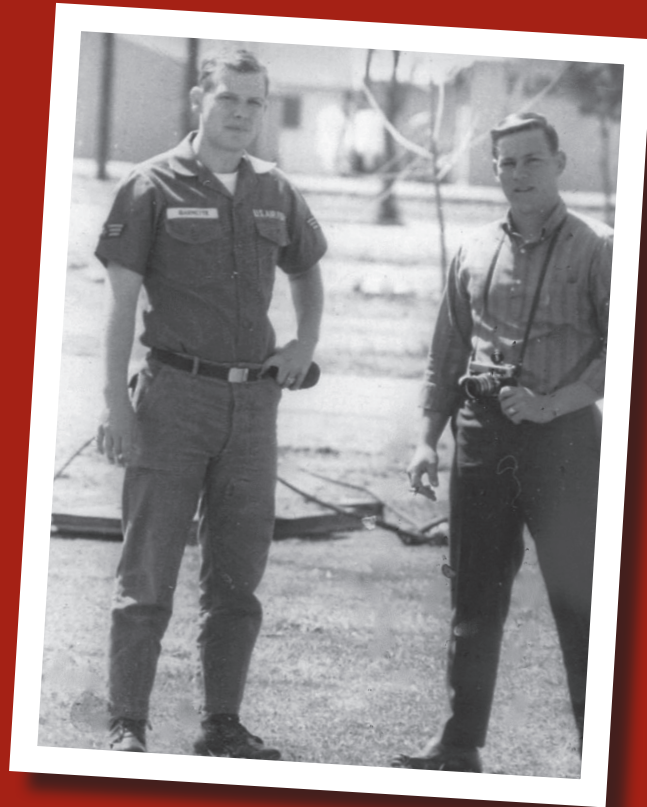


Doug holding Charlie, the monkey. The squadron's mascot.
Da Nang Air Base • 1967

stars

systems continued to be ever-changing and evolving, requiring constant training.

While stationed in Vietnam, Doug came upon what would turn out to be a most cherished keepsake. Its owner would only be discovered a full fifty-plus years later in Doug's retirement years! On a visit to the commissary one unremarkable day, accompanied by a couple Marine buddies, he spotted a "shiny thing" lying on the floor. Upon picking up the object, he discovered it to be a necklace with an attached locket. He found the locket to contain pictures of a Marine in full dress uniform on one side and, presumably, his girlfriend on the opposite side? Sensing the importance of this lovely piece of jewelry, he, for the time being, safely stored it with full intention, commitment and determination to locating its owner, which in time, he did.



Kunsan Air Force Base • 1967
Gunsan, South Korea • Doug, on left

Doug returned to the United States in November of 1967, finding himself stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina. There he continued to teach and train in-coming airmen in the area of missile guidance systems. However, in January of 1968, Doug, along with his squadron, was sent to South Korea, stationed at Kunsan Air Force Base in Gunsan, South Korea. The USS Pueblo, a naval intelligence vessel, had been intercepted by North Korean patrol boats, and the 83 naval crewmen were taken hostage. The United States airmen, already trained for combat, were sent to act as military back-up personnel in the event that President Johnson might order direct retaliation, which he did not. After intense negotiations between North Korea and the United States, the 82 surviving sailors were released without incident in Panmunjon, South Korea, just prior to Christmas of 1968. While on high alert, and in crisis mode stationed at Kunsan AFB, Doug continued to stay up to date with the latest technology and upgrades in the field of missile guidance. He proved himself to be a role model with a sterling work ethic and a commitment to "staying the course!"

stars

Doug returned to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in early July of 1968. He continued to utilize his specialization in missile guidance systems as a trainer for about 55 new recruits identified as having an interest in, and showing skill in, this technological area of study. During this time, Doug's first tour of duty came to an end. After much thought and consideration, he made a significant life decision to re-enlist. His thinking at that point was that military life well-suited his station in life. He had attained in a short period of time, a level of high achievement and respect from all those with whom he worked. He also noted that it would be monetarily advantageous to continue his service to his country.

It was in March of 1969 that now "Staff Sergeant Herbert D. Barnette distinguished himself by outstanding performance of duty while assigned to F-4 Technical Advisory Field Team, United States Military Mission with the Iranian Army." He was there as an advisor to the Imperial Iranian Air Force, Mehrabad Air Base, Tehran, Iran. Doug was found to "consistently demonstrate exceptional management and leadership qualities." His "unique professional leadership ability" enabled him to achieve "outstanding results." In the citation he was issued, it noted his "good will" and "genuine desire to provide the best technical knowledge to their personnel," reflecting great credit upon himself, as well as to the mission and the United States Department of Defense.

Iran, during that period of time, under the leadership of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was considered by the United States government to be an ally and trustworthy foreign power. So much so that Doug remarked Shah Pahlavi even purchased a fleet of F-4 fighter jets from our Defense Department because of an anticipated nuclear conflict with neighboring Iraq.



Doug , seated third from left • 1967

A black and white photograph of a man in a white t-shirt working on a large, cylindrical object, possibly a rocket or missile, in a workshop. The object has the number 'R-43683 6' and '4402 6' written on it. The background shows a workshop with tools hanging on a wall and a sign that reads 'NO'.

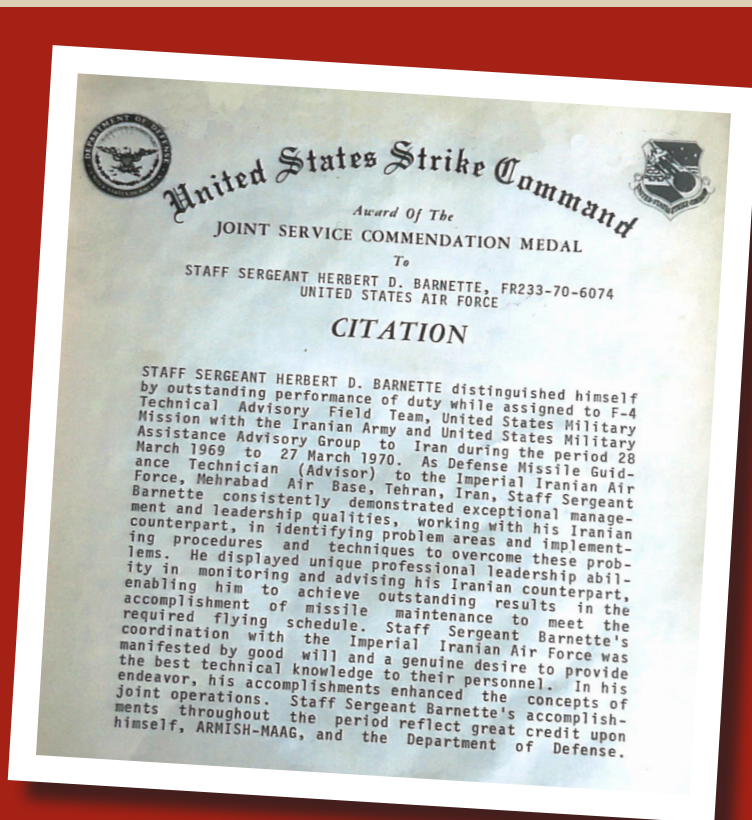
Da Nang Air Base Missile Shop • 1967

Doug found Mr. Brinkley to possess a genuine interest in his recent military experiences in Iran as Doug chronicled them to him. He discovered Mr. Brinkley to be unpretentious, low-key, down-to-earth in his demeanor and, relevant and straight forward in his questions. Originally planning to land in Washington, D. C., they found their flight diverted to New York City, which was also nixed due to both areas experiencing blizzard-like weather conditions. The “Jumbo Jet” was then forced to change its course of direction and found safe landing at Halifax Stanfield International Airport in Nova Scotia, Canada. Undeterred by this change, and very much wanting to continue his stimulating conversation with Doug, Mr. Brinkley issued an invitation for Doug to join him for dinner in the airport tower! That

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unexpected meeting of such a well-known and highly respected American journalist remains for Doug a most treasured and appreciated memory! It was a serendipitous meeting he realized would not have happened had he not decided to re-enlist which only reaffirmed it was the right decision for him. Doug returned to Seymour Johnson AFB in North Carolina, one with which he had familiarity as he had been stationed there before his tour in South Korea. He came back to a “swinging door” of repeat training in his specialty area. By then he had reached a level of competence and expertise in the missile and control squadron that was unparalleled by any of his peers. He was known to be a consummate professional, respected for his knowledge, skill achievement, enthusiasm and well-substantiated work ethic! It was from this base that Doug successfully completed his second tour of duty, dating from 1968-1972.

Although, perhaps, speculating somewhat on what adventures and experiences awaited him in civilian life, he chose to again re-enlist for a third tour of service. He was then transferred to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona. However, this tour of duty was abbreviated, and would become his last one. The longing to be closer to his family, along with the desire for freedom of movement, and his enterprising, venturesome nature beckoned him home. Doug was ready to experience life on a different level now, utilizing the life tools he had garnered in the military. While stationed in Arizona, he departed from the Air Force with an honorable discharge in December of 1973. He had to his credit, and to that of the United States of America, sustained fidelity to military service for eight years, six months and nine days. He had served his country well, admirably, and had been a positive, influential role model for scores of servicemen, motivated by his genuine altruism and concern for others. He saw inherent value in all who had crossed his path in



Iran Joint Service Commendation
March 1969 - March 1970

those years. Who knows what lifelong positive actions he influenced, and set in motion, in the future success of those he met? All of this while never seeking recognition for himself as he set about the heroic task of embracing everyday life! He had determined it was time for a change and to move forward in his life's journey.

Upon Doug's discharge from the Air Force, he returned home to West Virginia, this time to Webster County. He initially took a job in a coal mine there because it provided immediate employment and paid well. However, in a relatively short period of time, he left due to the lack of steady work as the mine experienced frequent strikes.

He moved to Moundsville after accepting the position of Managing Director for the commissary warehouse at the West Virginia Penitentiary. There he was in charge of inventory, ordering all supplies and food staples necessary for the day-to-day operation of the institution. He noted he was under their employ during the infamous riot staged there on January 2, 1986. Seeing that penitentiary job was low paying, and looking to support other family members, Doug returned to coal mining, located this time in the Moundsville area. However, his time spent there was brief due to on-going strike activity.

Doug's line of work took a much different turn to the area of mental health care when he found employment with the Department of Health in the state of Wyoming. He moved there to accept the position of Patient Care Coordinator in what was once the Wyoming State Insane Asylum, now known as the Wyoming State Hospital located in Evanston. His



Military support group Doug belongs to



job entailed organizing and overseeing activities and events that were pertinent in nature and effective for both the staff and patients.

Eager to expand his horizon of life experiences and test his mettle, Doug's next occupation, and certainly the most challenging, was with the Nevada Department of Corrections at the Ely State Prison, located near Ely, Nevada. This penal institution, housing more than 1,000 inmates, was deemed by the state to be a maximum-security facility. Prisoners held there included those awaiting execution on Death Row. Doug exclaimed of his position there as a Correction Officer that he had to "remain always alert and be street smart." He constantly stayed "on top" of the inmates' actions, as well as being aware of his surroundings at all times so as to not risk personal injury, or possibly death. This most demanding position also required Doug to be on call 23 hours a day. Not surprisingly, that in time this role took its toll on him physically, emotionally and, especially psychologically. He knew when it was time for a much-needed change and he moved on.

Doug discovered a familiar position of leadership available to him in Mount Olive, North Carolina. He became the Park and Recreational Director for the Boys and Girls Club of America. This organization, geared to serve youngsters and teens, would give him the opportunity to help the children develop character among other set goals. It became Doug's wish to see his charges become responsible, productive and caring citizens in their communities. He also looked to help instill in them the great value of living a healthy lifestyle! He set out to access opportunities and experiences that would guide each child to reach his/her full potential. He left years later feeling successful in reaching his goals and knowing his life had been enriched through this work experience!

In an effort to be closer to family, Doug moved to Lancaster, Ohio. Here he would serve as a Correction Officer for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction at the Southeastern Correctional Institution. This institution housed several thousand minimum and medium security inmates. He was already knowledgeable, skilled and well-experienced to manage this level of security-risk convicts considering his background of work with maximum security prisoners at Ely State Prison.

An opportunity to move even closer to his family came in a request from the Belmont Correctional Institution in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Doug's reputation as an outstanding law enforcement professional had preceded him. The warden asked Doug to join their workforce as a Correction Officer, a position he had previously held. This facility housed nearly 3,000 prisoners and was at the same security level as Lancaster. Looking to interact with family on a more consistent basis, it was an easy decision for him to relocate. He moved to Wintersville,

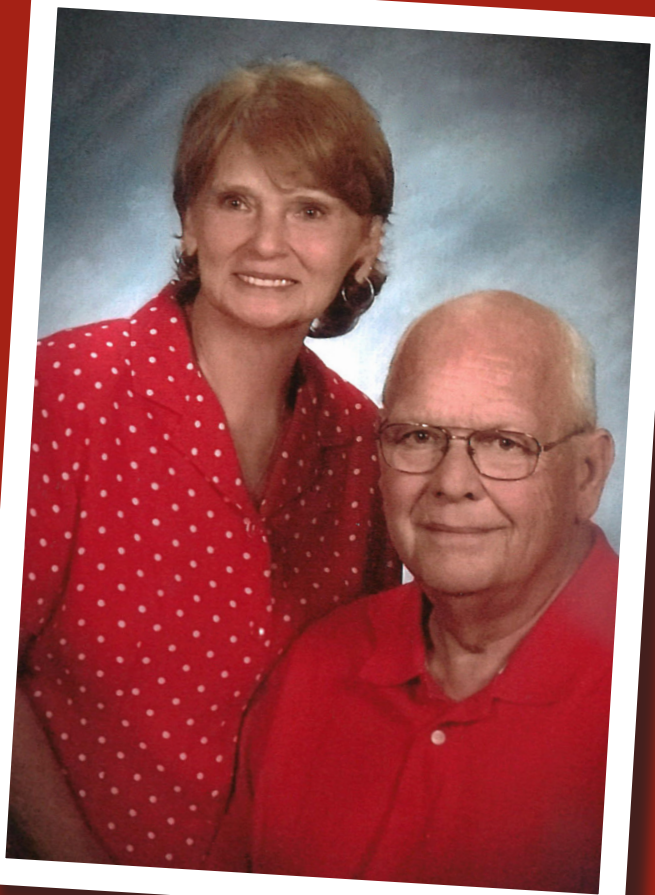


Ohio in order to take full advantage of those celebrations and holidays that knit a family together and create lasting memories! The commute to St. Clairsville was doable as he determined this position in the workforce would be his last.

It also turned out to be a move where Doug would unexpectedly come to meet and marry the “love of his life,” Shirley Pizzoferrato. At the same time as his position with the Belmont Correctional Institution, Doug’s son, and Shirley’s daughter, were both employed as Deputy Sheriffs in Belmont County and were friends as well. Feeling that their respective parents were similar in nature, and might enjoy each another’s company, these “children” introduced Doug and Shirley in May of 2000. To the delight of their family members, they were married in September of that same year. Doug remarked his decision to marry Shirley was the “best” one he had ever made! Together in life and partnership, they created a foundation of love, unity and support for each another.

Doug retired from the workforce entirely in 2005, and looked forward to not only enjoying family time, but indulging in his passion for golf and fishing. He had created a personal legacy of significant contributions in all areas of his life, boldly and courageously followed an adventuresome spirit, giving wholeheartedly to the task at hand.

What was to become of the beautiful locket Doug had discovered while stationed in Vietnam? He tried unsuccessfully while stationed there to find its owner, but unfortunately to no avail! However, he never gave up his search, and continued to seek its owner long into his civilian life. His near life-long search found its resolution beginning in late 2016 with a conversation Doug had with a fellow veteran at a meeting of the Vietnam Veterans Support Group Chapter 1, of which he is a member, in Steubenville.



Doug & Shirley Barnette • 2000



There, Doug relayed his story to a Vietnam Marine veteran who is a friend of an officer in the Harrison County Veterans Office. Seeking to solve this long-standing puzzle, Doug, along with a “brotherhood” of six other veterans, in earnest began their own investigation to problem-solve, and bring to fruition the return of the locket to its rightful owner. It took this group of caring, persistent men a full two and one-half years, filled with delays, frustration and cutting through the short-comings of “red tape” to find its true owner.

In the spring of 2019, it was discovered that the locket, which actually contained a picture of the owner’s then-wife, was found to belong to a retired Marine corporal, now residing in Arizona. What was surprising, too, was that this gentleman had also been employed as a deputy sheriff prior to his retirement! The Arizonian was shocked to learn of its being found and greatly overjoyed to have it returned. Upon receiving the treasured locket, he lovingly gifted it to their daughter, who cherishes the family heirloom, and remains most grateful to those who gave freely their time, talent and effort to ensure its return. After singularly searching for its owner for 47 years, Doug was delighted that after 53 years, the long-ago lost piece had finally been returned! It is indeed a story well-remembered, and honored for its tale of enduring hope, unyielding perseverance and heart-warming inspiration!

Doug’s own reflection on his lasting “Living Legacy” is rooted in his commitment and devotion to his faith, family and service to others. He recounted the sage advice his father once imparted to him saying: “Always be the best at what you do, regardless of others’ influence, and in all circumstances!” Doug took seriously those words of counsel from his respected dad and conducted himself accordingly. It was with these words in mind that Doug always sought to do the “right thing.” It required little forethought, but persistence and intentional energy to consistently be a good example for others by honoring the basic “principles of life.”

He was known to work diligently at whatever task or job he was given and with exemplary results. Throughout his lifetime, he has consistently modeled behavior by which future generations could admire and imitate. He set for them by his example a foundation, and with any luck, a blueprint for a successful and joy-filled life. He always looked out for, and had taken outstanding care of his beloved wife, two children, six stepchildren and ten grandchildren. He has offered sparingly, and taken great care in dispensing advice, choosing role modeling over just mere words. Doug firmly believes too, in taking good care of himself in all realms of managing a healthy lifestyle. It was always his desire to be fully present and engaged with those for whom he cares.

Doug has demonstrated over his lifetime just what a life well lived looks like. He has always possessed a strong work ethic, been humble, shown immense integrity and been loyal and



true to his word. His sustained and positive, rewarding relationships with family members provide him with peace, joy and happiness. He is especially most thankful to God for the care, devotion and loyalty of his loving wife, Shirley.

This gentleman of independent thinking and immense character, through which all who have known him have had their lives enriched and benefitted. Doug's over-riding "philosophy of life" is simply stated in saying that, "A successful life is not just about what you have, but more importantly, how you treat others and what you give!" He has by all measures lived a fulfilling, commendable and extraordinary life indeed!

Herbert Douglas Barnette Commendations

Air Force Good Conduct Medal
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
Air Force Training Ribbon
Air Force Longevity Award
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Bronze Vietnam Service Medal
Joint Service Commendation Medal
National Defense Service Medal
Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

