



Col. Jack Sheldon Howe, USAF (Ret.)

MAY 18, 1939 - JUN 5, 2025



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Col. Jack Sheldon Howe, USAF (Ret.)

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Colonel Jack Sheldon Howe, USAF (Ret.), aged 86, passed away peacefully on June 5, 2025. He was able to be with his wife, Martha Barineau Howe of 58 years, in his beloved home up until his passing.

Born on May 18, 1939, in Flint, Michigan, Jack was the eldest of three children of John Greenleaf Howe and Virginia Sheldon, both educators. He graduated from Central High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Western Michigan University, followed by a master's degree in business administration from Ball State University.

In 1962, Jack was commissioned by the Air Force as a Security Police Officer, dedicating his life to serving his country.

His pursuit of knowledge continued during his military career at Arizona State University, Florida State University, Northwestern University, University of Georgia, University of Southern California, and the University of Virginia. Jack completed several advanced military education programs including the Air War College, Industrial College of Armed Forces, Air Command and Staff College and the FBI National Academy.

While stationed at Hurlburt Field, he met the love of his life Martha Barineau in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Soon after they met, he was sent to Vietnam at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. During his time in Vietnam, Jack went on R&R to Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he and Martha married.

Jack served as Security Police (now known as Security Forces) Squadron and Group Commander in Arizona, Florida, Germany, Illinois and New Mexico. In Washington D.C., he served in the Joint Service Military Police Organization at Washington Navy Yard. While stationed in Hawaii he served on the staff of Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). At Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, he served as Group Commander of the 377th. Jack also served as Group Commander in a sensitive job at a



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Belgian AB. For his last assignment, he was stationed at Kirtland AFB a second time, serving as the Director of Inspections for the Defense Nuclear Agency for all services.

His 30 years of service is most notably honored with the Bronze Star with Valor from Vietnam along with 14 other awards and decorations for distinguished service and merit.

Jack was a man of energy and passion, whose life was defined by both adventure and artistry. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed the freedom he found in skiing, sailing, kayaking and cycling, especially with his Quincy and Tallahassee friends. His competitive spirit showed on the tennis court and in the countless marathons he ran, a testament to his determination. Jack was multi-talented, innovative and creative. He loved woodworking projects small and large. He enjoyed photography, watercolor and oil painting. He found joy in exploring each place the Air Force sent him and his family. His granddaughter brought him pride with her tennis matches; hugs and the time she spent with him. His love for sports cars was a lifelong passion he passed on to his grandson. Through every pursuit, he lived fully, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, courage, creativity, and craftsmanship.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Barineau Howe of Quincy, FL, his daughter Holly Nix (Jonathan) of Santa Rosa Beach, FL, his daughter Betsy Mitchell of Havana, FL, his two grandchildren, and his two sisters, Pam Hazlett and Peggy Derby.

The service will be held at the Tallahassee National Cemetery on June 20, 2025 at 10:00 am. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Quincy, Florida, 306 North Madison Street, Quincy, Florida 32351.




Events


Col. Jack Sheldon Howe, USAF (Ret.)

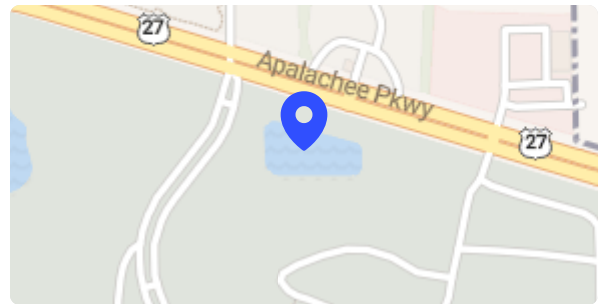
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Memorial Service

 **Friday**, June 20, 2025

 10:00 AM ET

 **Tallahassee National Cemetery**
5015 Apalachee Pkwy, Tallahassee FL 32311





Tribute Wall

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FB

Francis Brown posted:

Served under him at KAFB. Was a great man. When I did my reenlistment he did it. I'm a better man for knowing him. SSgt Francis Brown

January 29 at 7:51 PM

JS

Jay Simmons posted:

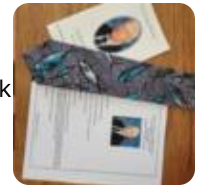
I worked with Col Howe as part of his front office staff during my time at Florennes AB. There was once a scheduled visit from the USAFE/IG team with plans to tour the WSA. Col Howe was a bit on edge with the IG team there, so some of the SPs cooked up a little prank and the IG played along. During the tour with Col Howe, the team passed by one of the guard posts. When the IG opened the door the Airman inside "appeared" to be sleeping with his beret crooked and over his eyes. He jumped up and started giving his post briefing to the IG. During all this, Col Howe just walked away in disbelief not really knowing what to say! Finally, someone let him know it was all just a prank and the area was fully under surveillance. The SNCO introduced the Airman as one of their best troops and he offered to go along with the prank. Everyone...especially Col Howe had a great stress relieving laugh that day! Col Howe was a good man and a great leader. God bless him and his family. MSgt (Ret) Jay Simmons

October 12 at 2:36 PM

CL

Chris Lacher shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Got back from Jack Howe's funeral a little while ago. It was a moving experience. Jack was a great, kind of modern renaissance man (as the pastor reminded us). The relatively new National Cemetery is a beautiful place and very well appointed and cared for. I don't know a word that captures the emotions of attending a funeral for such a friend, such a man, and in such a setting. From the manicured grounds, the 9-gun salute, and the presentation of colors to the attendees and afterward, properly folded, to Martha, instills that emotion. It's powerful. Certainly not joy, but also not sadness. It makes you feel, deeply, the strength of the passed man and at the same time the resilience of the living. What is that word?



June 22 at 5:42 AM

BE

Betsy August 14 at 6:46 PM

He loved you and the group so much. Thank you for posting this, Chris



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Martha Cunningham posted:

Jack and I rode many miles together; on the bike and off, I learned Jack was a man of intellect, artistry, and curiosity. He recommended so many good books to me on such a wide range of subjects, they were always thoughtful reads. He was also the consummate storyteller, I felt so privileged as he told me about the people and events that shaped his life. His humor, dry to the bone, was keen. He was a good friend, a gentleman's gentleman, and he made a difference in our world ❤️

June 18 at 8:26 PM



Chris Lacher shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

The Durango Trip Summer 2009 Jack and Dave Crawford drove Dave's Honda Fit with two bikes and a week's worth of gear to visit us in Durango for a week. It was one of the best weeks of cycling we can remember. Beautiful countryside, long climbs, and gelato in downtown Durango are just a few of the good times.



June 10 at 3:55 PM



Bettsey Howe-Mitchell June 16 at 2:43 PM

This is great, thank you for sharing!



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June 22 at 5:42 AM





Media

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June 10 at 3:55 PM



Jack Howe and Dave Crawford



Jack and Dave (and me) at the continental divide



Downtown Durango - good food, plus gelato.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jack by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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