



Benjamin Warner Newby

April 27, 1935 - April 27, 2013

Benjamin Warner Newby completed his earthly race on April 27, 2013. He was 88. He was the second child and only son of Petroleum Geologist Warner Newby and his wife Elsie Faye. His late mother once said, "He was in a hurry when he was born and has been in a hurry ever since."

While still a toddler he lost his father to a car accident and he was later adopted by Norman Welch when his mother remarried. During his high school years he made a confession of faith and was baptized at the First Christian Church of Oklahoma City. His Christian faith and his love for his country guided his life.

Ben distinctly remembered standing on the steps of the barracks at Oklahoma Military Academy in Claremore when he heard the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It was his senior year. Following family tradition, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. While he awaited his orders, he completed a summer semester at University of Oklahoma.

After a year of flight training Ben earned his wings and received his commission as Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps at Williams Airfield near Phoenix. He was 18.

The next 9 months he ferried planes across the U.S. flying sunrise to sunset,

piloting almost every plane in the Air Corps fleet.

He then was assigned to a group of pilots headed to the China-Burma theatre. Enroute, on a layover in Casablanca, when there was a call for volunteers for an unknown assignment, Ben volunteered and found himself rerouted to Naples, Italy. There he served the Air Transport Command for the remainder of the war, piloting C47s all around the Mediterranean, making regular stops in Cairo, Casablanca, Tripoli, Rome, Athens, and to European cities including Paris, Marseille and Bucharest.

After D-Day in Europe he was assigned to ferry a B17 bomber across the Atlantic to Florida. He was released on his 21st birthday in 1945. He enrolled at OSU and a year later transferred to University of Arkansas where he earned a business degree with a minor in Architecture.

After a few seasons as a bachelor wheat farmer near Marshall in Western Oklahoma he was recalled for the Korean Conflict. On his second tour of duty he was assigned to General LeMay's Strategic Air Command and stationed in Rapid City, South Dakota for 21 months. He flew the B36, an attack and reconnaissance bomber capable of 36-hour 10,000 mile missions. With 6 propellers and 2 jet engines and the B36 was the biggest plane at the time in the Air force arsenal.

He married Lorraine Sandberg and their marriage was blessed with two daughters: Faye Ann and Nancy Erin. Lorraine died when the girls were still teenagers.

He completed his Military career by serving 28 years in the Air Force reserve, retiring with the rank of Major. Concurrently he enjoyed a civilian career as a documentary photographer specializing in aerials and architecture. He had both a private studio and also worked as a pilot and photographer for the

Tulsa Tribune from 1966-1984.

In 1991 he married Raakel Vesanen at the Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa.

In his retirement he continued to enjoy flying to age 78 and used his camera to record the beauty of the earth.

He is survived by his wife Raakel, a daughter Faye Ann Newby, a sister Elsie Newby Weiss, maternal cousins Patsy Puckett and Lou Lechman, brother-in-law Joel Vesanen and wife Ruth, sister-in-law Laura Katz and husband Stephen and 5 nieces and 3 nephews and their spouses and children. He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Lorraine and his daughter Nancy.

A memorial service for Mr. Newby will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at one o'clock p.m. at the United Methodist Church, located at 114 W. Chickasaw in Lindsay, Oklahoma with Rev. Ron King officiating. Services are under the direction of B.G. Boydston Funeral Home of Lindsay, Oklahoma. Condolences for the family may be made online at www

Tribute Wall

MY

“ *Raakel & Fay Ann, Saddened by Ben's loss. So many wonderful memories, church, flying sailing. God Bless*

mac young - May 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ *Raakie, we are so very sorry for your loss. Ben was a fine man. Condolences.*

EJ and Linda Branch - May 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Raakel, so sorry for your lose. My thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless
*

Carolyn Hutto - April 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ *Raakel, so sorry for your lose. Sending prayers for you.
*

Virginia Cunningham - April 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ *Ben was a gentleman who lived his life well. We send condolences.*

Earl & Jo Ann Wilson - April 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *So sorry for your loss Raakie and he will be missed.. God bless you and your family..*

Jean Price - April 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM