



Loren David Brunke

October 13, 1942 – September 22, 2023

Loren David Brunke passed away at noon on Friday, September 22, 2023, at the age of 80 with his wife and two children by his side in San Antonio, TX. Loren was born on October 13, 1942, in Beatrice, Nebraska. His parents were August and Marjory Brunke. He graduated from Lincoln Northeast High School in 1960. He then attended the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL), receiving a degree in Zoology and Physiology.

After completing his undergraduate degree, he joined the United States Air Force (USAF) as an officer and became a Navigator. He met his wife of fifty-six years, Sheila Anne Benson of San Antonio, Texas, while stationed at James Conolly AFB. Sheila was attending Baylor University when they met. After she finished her degree, they were married in San Antonio in February 1967. They soon after moved to Fairfield, CA, and for their honeymoon enjoyed Heavenly Valley Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe.

After being stationed at Travis AFB in Fairfield, CA, and Plattsburgh AFB, NY, Loren completed his military commitment. They moved to Waco, Texas, so that he could attend Baylor Law School. He graduated in 1972 with his JD. After the birth of their daughter, Heather Michele (1973), in Austin, Loren decided to rejoin the USAF and served as a commissioned officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps).

The family then moved to Florida where he was stationed at Eglin AFB. They lived in Fort Walton Beach and greatly enjoyed the beautiful white sand beaches and boating along the Emerald Coast in Florida. Loren was then transferred to RAF Alconbury AFB in England, where David Matthew was born in 1976. While abroad, the Loren and Sheila enjoyed seeing Cambridge and London in the UK, as well as Germany, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.

Loren's next assignment was at Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, New Mexico, where he was promoted to Major. He was able to introduce the kids to snow skiing in NM. From there, he was sent to Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs, Colorado, an assignment the whole family thoroughly enjoyed. He taught his children to snow ski in CO and shared his love of skiing with them. The family enjoyed many trips to the slopes together while stationed there.

The family returned to Texas in 1984, when Loren was stationed at Bergstrom AFB in Austin, and he completed his military career. Loren practiced as an attorney in Sherman for two

years and in San Antonio for approximately three years. He then began his 20-year career with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in Austin, where he worked as a Lemon Law Hearings Examiner and later as Director of Consumer Affairs for the Motor Vehicles Division (MVD). While in Austin with TxDOT, Loren spent many evenings running by Town Lake next to his office, which was his favorite trail.

After retirement with TxDOT, Loren underwent multiple back and neck surgeries while in Austin to address complications from a progressive myoneural disease and osteoporosis. He endured many hardships in his recoveries and chronic pain and was an example of long-suffering and perseverance to his entire family. Loren instilled his incredible work ethic, attention to detail, and honesty in his children. He will be forever missed!

Loren Brunke is survived by his wife Sheila, 79, his two children, Heather Brunke Popp of San Antonio, Texas, and David Brunke of Austin, Texas; their spouses Michael Popp and Michele Brunke; his eight grandchildren, Andrew Popp, Austin Popp, Ryan Popp, Savannah Popp, Sierra Popp, Hannah Brunke, William Brunke, and Luke Brunke; and his sister, Marsha Brunke of Prescott Valley, Arizona.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

10:30 AM

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

319 E. MULBERRY AVE, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78212

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Strong Foundation Ministries (strongfoundation.org).

