



## Keith C. Craft

January 19, 1957 - December 5, 2021

Cartwright - Keith Clayton Craft, Commander – USNR

Keith Clayton Craft – 64 - passed away, with his family by his side, Sunday, December 5th, 2021.

Keith was born January 19th, 1957 at Lockbourne AFB Hospital, in Groveport, Ohio to Alfred C. Craft, and Marvadeen L. (Rind) Craft.

A resident of Cartwright since early childhood, Keith spent his life on the family farm. He graduated from Colbert High School in 1975. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Aviation from Southern Oklahoma State University in 1981, returning to complete his Master's Degree in Aviation/Business Administration in 1995.

Surpassed only by the love he had for his family, his lifelong loves were the U.S. Navy and flying. He earned his first license to fly in 1973, at age 16, and spent most of his career in the sky. While on the ground, he spent time aiding his community, or teaching others. Keith served as a Reserve Deputy for Bryan County Sheriff's Dept. from 1994 to 1996, and to share his love of flying, Keith also taught at SOSU from 1997 to 1999 as Chief Ground Instructor and Assistant Director/Flight Instructor. Keith was happiest in the sky, and in addition to his flight duties while serving in the Navy, he held several jobs as a private and commercial pilot throughout his lifetime, beginning with Cherokee Construction in 1995, ending with his final landing in

2011 when he retired from Bombardier/Flex Jet.

Keith retired at the rank of Commander from the U.S. Naval Reserves in October, 2009, having devoted 28 years to defending his country. He enlisted in May of 1981, completing Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School and receiving his Commission in September of 1981. Called to Active-Duty multiple times during his career, he proudly served during many campaigns and war-time operations including Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Noble Eagle. Keith spent much of his career on the ocean, having served on the U.S.S. Enterprise, U.S.S. Nimitz, and U.S.S. Constellation. Of his many awards and achievements, he was most proud of earning a Citation for Heroic Achievement in Aerial Flight in 1984. Other Medals and Awards earned over his career include Aviator's Valor Medal, Air Medal Bronze Star, Sea Service Deployment (3) -Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Southwest Asia Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (3), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2) Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, and many other Unit Citations and Commendations. Words used by his Naval Command to describe Keith were "Most Exceptional", "Indispensable Asset", "Exceptionally Talented", "Unsurpassed Leadership". All that knew him would agree that those words are accurate. He was truly a hero - to his peers, his friends, and to his family.

He was preceded in death by his mother Marvadeen in 2006, and his father Alfred in 2017.

He is survived by his fiancée; Andrea, son; Duncan (Laura), sister; Connie (Coy Briggs), two nephews; Justin and Joshua, three grandchildren; Charlotte, Annie, and Caleb, and many friends.

Per Keith's wishes, visitation will not be observed. A Celebration of Life will be held at Brown's Funeral Home in Durant on Wednesday, January 19th, 2022 at 2:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his name to the National Rifle Association.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/SJFSZPPPXXFZHPCP>

# Cemetery Details

## Garden of Memory

N 3655 Rd  
Colbert, OK 74733

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 19. 2:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant  
4900 West US Hwy 70  
Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0393  
[info@brownsfuneralservice.com](mailto:info@brownsfuneralservice.com)  
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Keith C. Craft*



**Brown's Durant Funeral Service** - January 17, 2022 at 04:03 PM



“ *Keith C. Craft*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *Napa Valley Charm Wine Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Keith C. Craft.*



December 09, 2021 at 12:37 PM



“ *With Love purchased the With Distinction for the family of Keith C. Craft.*



**With Love** - December 09, 2021 at 08:59 AM