



Brig. Gen Benard Wayne Gann, U.S.A.F., Ret.

December 28, 1939 - November 20, 2020

Brigadier General Benard Wayne Gann, age 80, returned to his Heavenly Father on November 20, 2020. Ben was a great American patriot, husband, father, grandfather, and brother. We weep at the loss and at the same time are grateful to God that such men lived. He was a true hero.

Ben was born December 28, 1939 in Nacogdoches, Texas. He attended Center High School where he was an accomplished student and athlete. In 1962 he earned his BBA from Baylor University where he met his future wife, Genelle Amason of Corpus Christi.

In 1963, he began his Air Force career. He attended Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and received a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from Troy State University. He was an accomplished pilot and leader who accrued 6,000 flying hours. He served three tours of duty in Vietnam and Panama, commanded two combat bomb wings, and rose through the ranks to Brigadier General. Because of his courage and humility, he was admired and respected by those with whom he served. General Gann was awarded many commendations including the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the prestigious Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

In 1995, Ben, Genelle and their family moved to Tyler, Texas, where he

became a financial advisor. He was very involved in the community and in the church he loved, Marvin United Methodist.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Genelle, their son Scott, granddaughters, Deven and Avery; son Mason, his fiancé, Doctor Angela Smith, twin grandsons, Miles and Matthew; daughter, Ashley Lowrance and husband, Jason, grandchildren, Wyatt, Everett and Catherine; his sister, Edwina Samford, nephews, Randall and Jeffrey, niece, Sherry Oliver and husband, Ben.

General Gann will be buried with military honors at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery with a private ceremony. A memorial service will be planned at a later date in Tyler, Texas. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Eternal Flame Fund at Marvin UMC, 300 West Erwin St., Tyler, Texas 75702.

“Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth...I’ve trod the high untrespassed sanctity of space, put out my hand and touched the face of God.” From “High Flight” by John Gillespie Magee Jr.

Cemetery Details

DFW National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy
Dallas, TX 75211

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Incredible leader! Served under his leadership in the 5th Bomb Wing. When he made Brigadier General, he came over to the maintenance hanger to celebrate with us B-52 Crew Chiefs. That is leadership that I've carried through my whole life and professional career. May God continue to bless this family.*

Joseph F. Gorman - March 27, 2025 at 10:35 AM

LH

“ *My first duty assignment in the Air Force was Minot. BGen Gann became the wing commander shortly after I was assigned there. He would stop me in the hall and have a conversation with me, an E-3. On our first conversation, he asked where I was from. I am from Mineola, Texas. After that, he called me Mineola, not Amn Hanson. He was always super nice and friendly. One of my favorite people I ever met in the Air Force. I actually called and left him a voicemail around the time of his passing to reacquaint with him as I had moved back to east Texas. Unfortunately, I was too late. R.I.P. General. You were a man revered and admired.*

Lorne Hanson - January 31, 2024 at 10:48 AM

PP

“ *I lived in Tyler for seven years. I met General Gann when I worked at the towers in downtown Tyler. I am an Army and Airforce veteran. I was sworn in by General Gann in 2000. R.I.P and Salute Sir you will be missed.*

PATRICK PATTERSON - October 03, 2023 at 12:53 AM

JM

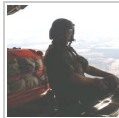
“ I met Ben after he had retired from the air force and he had started work at our firm as a financial advisor. We became close friends when we learned that each of us were former air force veterans. Ben was a career officer, but I had returned to civilian life after completing my tour of duty. Ben and I would often jointly volunteer our services to our church. He was always willing to help when needed. Whenever Ben would see me, he would always snap to attention, sharply salute me and say "hello Captain." Of course, I would always return his salute and say "good to see you General." Ben and Genelle were wonderful friends to my wife and me. Ben was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. I will truly miss him.

JOHN MULLER - November 28, 2020 at 03:32 PM

PC

General Ben (Pinky) Gann was a friend and classmate in pilot training in class 64G at Webb AFB. Later during our class reunions, we played golf together and he was always a gentleman who put up with my bad golf. He will be missed!

Peter Costa - November 30, 2020 at 02:43 PM



I had the distinct honor of being his Public Affairs Officer while with the 4722d Support Squadron. I will miss you dearly sir.

Chris Charland - August 16, 2022 at 02:28 PM

DI

“ *Genelle and Gann family,*

So sorry for your loss. I was a pilot training (64G) classmate of Benn. We flew many formation training flights together. A great stick and a great leader. Many great memories.

*David Sanderson, USAF Ret
Minneapolis*

David Sanderson, III - November 25, 2020 at 07:15 PM

CL

“ *I knew Ben from my Sunday School class at Marvin UMC. He served a term as President of our class and did a fine job. Little did I know at the time the experience he had was as a General! One small coincidence was that the company I retired from was a Boeing subcontractor and manufactured parts of aircraft he was familiar with. My condolences to Genelle and all of the family. He will truly be missed in Sunday School.*
Cathy Linney

Cathy Linney - November 24, 2020 at 08:16 PM

KD

“ Our first assignment was in NC at Seymour Johnson AFB. We were living on base and my husband told me that his Squadron Commander was bringing over some plants for us to baby-sit while they were waiting for housing. A bright blue convertible with a TREE in the backseat appeared in our driveway. A tall, lanky, handsome man wearing a Stetson Hat got out of the car, stuck his hand out and said, "Call me Ben". Thus began a 40 year relationship with Ben and Genelle Gann that brought much wisdom, joy and a great sense of respect to us. I will miss my annual Birthday call.
"God Bless the Men Who Fly"
Kathy and Jim Deaver.

Kathy Deaver - November 24, 2020 at 05:40 PM

RS

“ So proud to have been your Senior Enlisted Advisor during our assignment to Andersen AFB, Guam. Ben was not only my boss, but a great friend as well. A true SAC warrior who will be missed by all. I salute you sir for your outstanding leadership. Sylvia and I send God's Blessings to Gennelle and family.
CMSgt Randy Squires, USAF
Retired

Randy Squires - November 22, 2020 at 06:40 PM

SR

“ A good friend for 70 years, a college roommate, best man in each other's wedding. More good memories than you can imagine. Ben will always be missed. Sammy Rhodes

Sammy Rhodes - November 22, 2020 at 09:59 AM