

## TOMMY ALLEN ROBERTS FAMILY (#865)

Tommy Allen Roberts was born at Robert's Switch, Putnam County, Tennessee on 9 March 1947. He is the son of Clavis Kinnard Roberts and Etta Frances (Phillips) Roberts. He married Gracie Nell Ashburn on 29 May 1965. Gracie is the daughter of Calvin Blackburn Ashburn and Reba Lorene (Clouse) Ashburn. Gracie was born at Cookeville on 17 November 1948.



Tommy grew up on a farm at Roberts Switch. At the age of 18, he decided farming wasn't the life he was looking for and joined the Air Force. This turned into a long-term decision as he spent over 30 years in the service, retiring in 1995 and returning to the farm he grew up on. He and Gracie were high school sweethearts. Tommy came home on leave one Saturday and told Gracie, "get your shoes on; we're fixing to get married." And so they did, on 29 May 1965 at Doyle, Tennessee. During their Air Force years, they lived in Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Virginia, California, Hawaii, Alabama, and Germany. While Tommy was in Thailand for one year, Gracie lived with her father-in-law, Clavis Roberts, in Tennessee. During this extensive travel, Tommy and Gracie always knew their home and roots were in Tennessee.

(Pictured: Tommy Allen Roberts & Gracie Nell (Ashburn) Roberts)

Gracie didn't work outside the home for the first 10 years of their married life. However, once the kids were both in school, she wanted to be "more productive." With Tommy's approval, she joined the Air Force and proudly served seven years as a Still Photographic Specialist (Photographer). Her assignments were all joint-assignments with her husband in Texas, Hawaii, and Florida. After separating from the Air Force, she continued to work for the military as a civilian photographer until Tommy received an assignment to Germany in 1986. Gracie left the workforce at that time but stayed very busy being a supportive wife and mother. Everyone credits her with excelling in everything she has endeavored, but especially as a wife, mother, and grandmother.

Tommy and Gracie have two children: Angela Grace (Roberts) Stout (b. 29 April 1966) and Tommy Allen Roberts #2 (b. 15 July 1970). Both children attended the United States Air Force Academy and are currently serving on active duty in the Air Force. To date, the total military service of this family is over 73 years and still accumulating.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1995, Tommy and Gracie returned to Roberts Switch and built their permanent "retirement" home. In 1997, Tommy founded the Leadership Development Network. In this capacity, he and Gracie traveled extensively conducting leadership training all over the United States and Canada, and in Chile. They sold this business in 2007 and are currently living on the family farm at Roberts Switch. While not affiliated with any specific church denomination, they attend church regularly and advocate strongly for trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. They also stress to their children and grandchildren the long-term family motto, "be honest and hard working."

*Submitted by: Angela Grace (Roberts) Stout, 7352 Greenfield Road, Montgomery, AL 366117; compiled by Tommy A. Roberts, 9575 Roberts Road, Silver Point, TN 38582.*

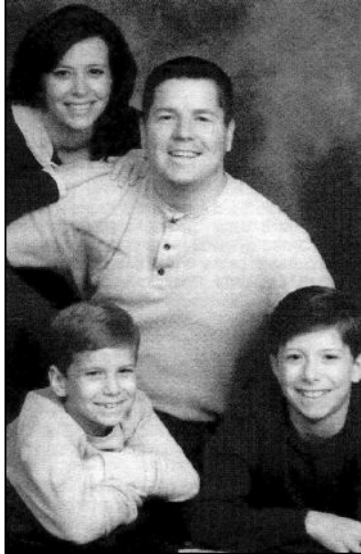


### Tommy Allen Roberts Family

L to R: Gracie Nell (Ashburn) Roberts, Angela Grace (Roberts) Stout, Tommy Allen Roberts & his son Tommy Allen Roberts.

## TOMMY ALLEN ROBERTS II (#866) No. 2

Lieutenant Colonel Tommy Allen Roberts II was born at March Air Force Base (AFB), Riverside County, California on 15 July 1970. He is the son of Tommy Allen Roberts and Gracie Nell (Ashburn) Roberts.



He married Marci Jo Epperson on 30 April 1994. Marci is the daughter of Jeanne (Jews) Epperson and Kent Epperson, both of Colorado. Marci was born in Denver, Colorado on 31 August 1971.

(Pictured: Tommy A. Roberts and family)

Tommy is part of a proud heritage of military service. His father is a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, his sister Angela (Roberts) Stout is an active duty Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, and his mother served proudly in the Air Force for a time as well. Growing up as a military dependent, he was lucky enough to live in various locations in the United States and abroad, including California, Texas, Tennessee, Hawaii, Florida, Alabama and Germany. Upon his graduation from H. H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden, Germany, he followed his sister's footsteps and attended the U. S. Air Force Academy where he graduated in 1992. Still on active duty, Lieutenant Colonel Roberts is the Commander of the Vi Space Operations Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base (AFB), Colorado. As the commander, he is responsible for the \$31 billion Milstar satellite system which provides the complete

range of secure, survivable, strategic and tactical communications for the president, Secretary of Defense, combatant commanders, and global warfighters. His career has included a variety of space operations assignments, including time in both the Peacekeeper Intercontinental Ballistic Missile weapon system and the Milstar communications satellite system. In addition, he has served on the staffs of Headquarters U. S. Air Force, Air Force Space Command, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Space Wing.

During the first assignment as a new Lieutenant at F. W. Warren AFB, Wyoming, Tommy met the love of his life, Marci. Marci was a nursing student at the nearby University of Northern Colorado. They married a year after their first meeting and live by the saying, "Home is where the Air Force sends you." They have been blessed with wonderful assignments in Wyoming, Washington D. C., California, Colorado, and Alabama. Marci is a registered nurse and has worked in both the Emergency Department and Labor and Delivery areas. She has temporarily put aside her professional career to focus on the raising of their two sons, but looks forward to returning one day to her chosen profession.

Tommy and Marci have two children: Jacob Allen Roberts (b. 24 January 1996) and Ryan Clavis Roberts (b. 4 April 1999). Jacob was born at F. W. Warren AFB, Wyoming and Ryan was born at Andrews AFB, Maryland. Both boys are active in sports, are proud of their Republican ancestry, and try their best to live by the family motto to "be honest and hard working." Tommy and Marci would summarize their lives in this way...incredibly full of God's blessings.

*Submitted by: Jacob Allen Roberts, 9231 Roberts Road, Silver Point, TN 38582; compiled by: Lt. Col Tommy A. Roberts, 9114 Oakmont Road, Peyton, Co 80831.*

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