

Honoring Brad Day with a Memorial Day Testimonial!



Brad Day was honored at NIA on Monday, May 29th, surrounded by a crowd of family and friends.

Brad was born March 24th, 1929, in Hartford. After attending grammar school in Stratford, his family moved to Ohio, where he spent his high school years. After high school, he returned to Connecticut, then headed to Virginia Tech to obtain his college degree. He was an accomplished musician. According to Winnie, he was remembered and lauded for his skill with clarinet at the 55th high school reunion, particularly his solo performances of George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue!

Brad joined the military in 1952, worked on Intelligence projects, and served in Korea. In 1954, Brad decided to not reenlist. He returned to Connecticut as a Captain in the Reserve, and took up work at Sikorsky. Brad worked at Sikorsky for 30 years. His expertise was in nuclear, biological and chemical engineering. His reserve activities included leading a project to modernize Civil Defense procedures for Connecticut, transforming to peacetime Civil Preparedness. In this role, he set up emergency evacuation plans for Long Island.

During his time at Sikorsky, he often found himself giving classes to former Colonels and other superior officers. If they didn't pay attention, Brad had a trick of dumping a barrel of empty cans across the classroom floor. "Now that I have your attention..."

Shortly after the war, Brad and Winnie met. Winnie was working for Hearst Advertising in New York. Ten years later, they found their way to Pinewood Lake!

Winnie followed Brad to Sikorsky. She worked in the Engineering Personnel Office for nine years, and then spent another six years as a secretary in the Test Pilot Flight Office.

Brad and Winnie had decided to adopt, and were aware to the plight of Korean war orphans. Brad had developed a great respect for the Korean people, so Susie was a happy choice to complete their family.

About 40 years ago, Brad developed the Teen Club programs that ran successfully for generations. The PLA Badminton Club followed. Those of us who were privileged to see Brad working with our children will be forever grateful. He had a special energy for children and teens, and always encouraged them to do their best, and to be their best, while having fun.

Brad and Winnie are PLA Treasures. Say hello to them this summer.