

## CHARLES BENNIE BROOKS



Charles Bennie Brooks, 91, also known as “Peepaw” or “Charlie” to his family and friends, passed away on January 20, 2023 at his home. Charles was born on May 29, 1931 in Knoxville, Tennessee. He lived most of his life in Jacksonville. He was a Veteran Airman



First Class of the United States Air Force. He grew up in Tennessee with his father and stepmother until he was 13 years old. At 13, he took a bus to Seguin, Texas, to live with his mother and stepfather. His stepfather was the one who suggested he go into the Air Force after high school graduation. While in Texas, he became a cowboy, learning to ride, train and break horses, work cattle, hunt rattlesnakes, and got into all of the typical trouble a young boy in the 1940’s might get into. In 1950, he joined the US Air Force and served for four years during the Korean War Conflict. During his tenure, he was a cargo master and flew planes along the West Berlin air corridors at the beginning of the Cold War.

After his service in the US Air Force, he returned to Tennessee to visit his father and family. There, he met his wife, Glendyl Lee Anderson, at church one Sunday in Knoxville, Tennessee. They were married three months later on May 6, 1955 and were married for 63 years until her passing in December 2018. Their only child, Ann Marie (Brooks) Mizell, was born on August 14, 1956. He went to work for Southern Bell (which later became BellSouth then AT&T). In April 1957, he had a job transfer to Jacksonville and moved his family to Florida. He established himself as a hardworking, dependable and valued worker. He started as a lineman and worked his way up to a foreman of a crew. He retired after a long and productive career. After a brief period of “time off” (and because he needed, as he said, “something to do”), Charles went back to work for Avis, where he worked for two decades before retiring again. Again, retirement did not suit him; so, he went back to work—this time helping his granddaughter, Amy, at Plantation Oaks Farms (formerly Double A Ranch) in Callahan. At the farm, Charles became more affectionately known as “Peepaw” to all the boarders and clients. Those who knew Charles knew him to be a man who could not abide being idle.

While in Florida, he became an avid motorcycle fan. He learned how to build his own bikes and raced in professional motorcycle races winning multiple trophies and accolades. He was even featured on the cover of a motorcycle magazine. He and his wife also enjoyed bowling and were league champions for many years. Other outdoor activities he enjoyed included fishing, working on his yard and going to the “ranch” every day. He enjoyed breakfast and lunch with his friends and family at The Pig, Callahan Barbecue, The Sheik and Hardee’s.

Charles is preceded in death by his parents Jesse Leroy Brooks and Ruth Montgomery Brooks Horner; his sister Shirley Brooks Atkins; brother Paul Larry Brooks; and his wife Glendyl Lee Anderson Brooks.

He is survived by his daughter Ann (Larry) Mizell of Callahan; his four grandchildren Stephen (Heidi) Mizell of Arlington, Texas, Jason (Trina) Mizell of Jacksonville, Amy (Kevin) Green and Emily (Tommy) Geiger, all of Callahan; nine great-grandchildren Avere, Helen, Chloe, Colt, Wyatt, Matthew, Brooke, Johnny, and Kathryn; and his brother Jeff Brooks.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, February 1 at Callahan Funeral Home on Brandies Avenue at 10 a.m. prior to the memorial service at 11 a.m. with Dr. Herb Reavis, Jr. officiating. Burial will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 12:30 p.m. with Military Honors.