

Frank Hanly Radspinner



Frank Hanly Radspinner passed away Monday, Feb. 23, 2009, after a brief illness. Celebration of life: 2:30 p.m. Friday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 917 Lamar, Fort Worth. Interment: 2:30 p.m. Saturday in Pickwick-McAdams Cemetery, Park Road 36, Possum Kingdom Lake, Graford. Memorials: In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorials be made in Frank's name to The Citadel Foundation, Class of '55, 171 Moultrie St., Charleston, S.C. 29409; or the Army Aviation Association of America Scholarship Fund, 755 Main St., Suite 4D, Monroe, Conn. 06468-2830. Frank was born April 26, 1934, in Darlington, S.C., to Frank Hanly and Elsie May Radspinner. Frank's love of aviation started when he piloted his first flight at age 11 and continued throughout his life. He graduated from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina in 1955.

After entering the U.S. Army, Frank served Army aviation in Asia, Europe and the Antarctic, where he flew the first helicopter flight to the South Pole. Mount Radspinner was named in recognition of his accomplishment. His service in Antarctica resulted in the Distinguished Flying Cross. A master Army aviator with more than 4,300 flight hours, he served over 30 months in Vietnam, receiving the Meritorious Service Award, Bronze Star, Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Award, Vietnam Service Medal (seven campaigns), Vietnam Campaign Medal/60 device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Antarctica Service Medal and many other related honors and awards. His contributions to aviation in both the military and commercial and volunteer communities spanned more than 50 years. As the Army liaison with Bell Helicopter, Frank participated in the development of the then-new Bell Cobra helicopter. After retirement from the Army, Frank joined Bell Helicopter's international marketing department, where he continued his love of flying and helicopters in Asia and Europe. A charter member of the Army Aviation Association of America, he continued to serve as a governor on the AAAA scholarship board. Additionally, Frank served with The Citadel Foundation board. As a member of the Possum Kingdom Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Frank initiated the drive to establish a recycling project for the area. He was preceded in death by his parents and son, William Douglas Radspinner.

Survivors: Wife of 30 years, Diana Braiden Radspinner; daughter, Lisa Ann Radspinner; daughter and son-in-law, Nina and Michael Johns; grandson, Dean Edgar "D.J." Rose; granddaughter, Natalie Ann Johns; and a host of extended family and friends.