



Jack Douglas MacArthur Brooks

February 6, 1942 - February 22, 2020

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Retired Colorado educator, raconteur/fiction writer Jack Brooks died unexpectedly at home in the Poudre River Valley near Fort Collins on February 22, 2020.

A native of Paducah, Texas, alum of North Texas State University, M.A. in Literature, and twenty-year core faculty of the highly regarded Adult Education program of the St. Vrain Public Schools, Longmont, Colorado, he is survived by his wife, retired professor of English and Creative Writing and acclaimed American poet Jenne' R. Andrews-Brooks. He also leaves a daughter Kelley J. Brooks, daughter of Becky Brooks, both of Denver, nephew Ricky Brooks of Colorado Springs and multiple great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Marvin H. Brooks Jr. and his sister, Mary.

Jack was a Lieutenant JG in the U.S. Navy, serving aboard the USS LaSalle, a ship commissioned as a troop transport during the Vietnam War.

He has written of his many ports of call and adventures “aboard ship” and elsewhere, as well of his adoration of his family and vacations to Colorado —“He would never forget the day they stopped on Independence Pass and ate cherries...” one short story enticingly begins, recounting a high country

adventure on one of many trips West.

He in fact loved all things Western, moving to Colorado in the 80's and buying property in the Poudre River Valley in Larimer County.

On a beautiful June day in 1990, he met Andrews-Brooks at a stable where they each kept their horses. On their property with its natural creek and towering cottonwoods, he and his wife combined a writing life with raising Golden Retrievers and enjoying their American Quarter Horse and Arabian mares. In recent years the couple founded Ardorgold English Golden Retrievers, importing several stunning dogs from abroad.

He was a meticulous craftsman, proud of putting in all utilities on the couple's property, building two sheds, beautiful decks and post and rail corrals. Jack was also a licensed pilot, worked as a paramedic and in Child Welfare before settling into teaching in the Texas Public Schools.

In addition to a rigorous outdoor life, he and Andrews-Brooks enjoyed reading their creative work to each other, quiet gourmet dinners to a backdrop of classical music including opera, and playing with their rambunctious canine family. He completed an oeuvre of fiction in recent years: some two hundred short stories with a variety of themes. He was an informal, ground-breaking scholar of the work of Ernest Hemingway.

He and his wife loved classic film together including Roman Holiday with Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn, and Bringing Up Baby, Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant, delighting in Hollywood's Golden Age. He was a huge fan of Love Actually, Notting Hill, and the "Alien" series.

One of his favorite adventures occurred between 1990 and 1991 when he and Andrews-Brooks were caretakers of the renowned Joder Arabian Ranch

outside Boulder; he once cut the head off a diamond-back with a shovel when, shaving and semi-attired, he noticed the critter menace his dogs from the window. He especially enjoyed the birth of the couple's Arabian foal "D.K."—Dusty Kiss, whose name was his coinage. At the arrival of the first foal on the ranch in years, the entire herd was jubilant and excited, calling to and straining at the fences to meet the little colt.

Another favorite adventure and effectively the couple's honeymoon: a trip to Lost Trail Ranch high in the Colorado San Juan's in 1990 and riding up into the timber in a finely misting rain to the headwaters of the Rio Grande, staying in a century-old cabin preserved on that ranch to this day.

As is the case with all whom we love, his death has darkened the very sky and speaking of him at all in the past tense is acutely painful. For Jack was a tall classic blue-eyed, soft-spoken Texan and a man without enemies, generous, deeply kind, and selfless in his willingness to help and nurture those he cared for. He adored his daughter and over the years had the great fortune to be loved by not one but two dynamic women he was infinitely proud of. In recent years as his wife became disabled, he was her devoted caregiver.

His passing is deeply devastating to those who loved and continue to love him; he is irreplaceable, and surely if there is a heaven, was welcomed with open arms by the angels and his God.

His wife shares the following poem in tribute:

The Waltz

In Memoriam for my husband Jack

I remember
The deep blue chocolate box
Reading Baci—kisses—from Perugia
I brought home
From Italy
Where a couple waltzed
Dancing in shimmering symmetry
On a crepuscular eternity,

Moving in ballroom elegance
To Verdi,
In unending alliance,
Like Lancaster's Sicilian Prince
With the stunning Cardinale
In Visconti's film *Il Gattopardo*,
The night long and without a care.

Such a heaven,
Where they, so abundantly joined in mortal life,
May glide and whirl together
In perpetuity;

I would take a taste of paradise now,
To hasten our reunion—
The rich midnight chocolate
In its gilded foil
To keep in my camisole
With a ticket to the train leaving
For the stars.

How remarkable that you kept my dance card
So full my love,
Ushering me out onto the parquet
In my teal gown
In our mortal pas de deux

And look how victorious
Beyond the profane scrim of death
The couple behind the sky, whirling in their finery
Through immortality's midnight
Framed in starfire,

Those whose lovers have yet
To rejoin them
Waiting in tuxedos
And frothing ball gowns
In the shadows--

Waiting as I am
To dance with you
Again.

Especial thanks to Elizabeth Elliott, founder, Opera Fort Collins, for her loving and gracious assistance.

Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to the Bohlender Funeral Home in Fort Collins.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *Miss his laugh and humor, thinking of you this early morning. God has an angel, say hello to our family members in Heaven.* ”



Ricky Brooks - March 23, 2024 at 02:11 AM



“ *Jenne Andrews lit a candle in memory of Jack Douglas MacArthur Brooks* ”



Jenne Andrews - September 01, 2020 at 01:24 AM

CY

“ *May you find healing and acceptance of this loss as you take comfort and sustenance from the memories of your time together. Cyble and Michael* ”

Cyble - March 15, 2020 at 06:07 PM

KB

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album* ”



Kristin Bohlender - March 10, 2020 at 09:12 PM

NC

*May your darling jack Rest In Peace, I know he is with you
In your heart and soul .
Much love ❤️ Nellie*

nellie cross - March 15, 2020 at 05:08 PM