



## **COL. ANTHONY LOUIS ST. AMANT**

**USAF, Retired Tony St. Amant passed away at his home on July 4, 2019. Born in San Francisco in 1939, Tony was the son of Joseph Anthony and Theda Rae St. Amant, a proud San Francisco native and die-heart 49er fan. After graduating from Lowell High School in 1957, Tony enlisted in the [United States Air Force](#). Three years later, Tony married the love of his life, Lynne Brill of Sacramento. During the next twenty-seven years Tony and Lynne raised five children while moving around the world to different assignments. As a career KC-135 pilot, Tony was assigned to many Strategic Air Command bases. During Tony's Air Force career, some of his achievements included receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in 1961 after graduating from Officer Candidate School, being selected for and graduating from pilot training school at Williams AFB in 1962, being assigned as squadron commander of the 70th Air Refueling Squadron at Grissom AFB from 1979 to 1980 and lastly, being assigned as Wing Commander of the 100th Air Refueling Wing at Beale AFB from 1980 to 1983. Of his many assignments, Tony truly treasured his time as a pilot of the 82nd SRS "Hog Heaven" squadron in Okinawa, Japan. While there he met many of his lifelong friends which resulted in some great memories. After retiring from the Air Force in 1987, Tony attended CSU Chico to receive his master's degree in Political Science before accepting the Deputy Administrative Officer position with Butte County for five years. Never one to sit idle, Tony discovered new interests as a member of the Chico Aqualliance Board where he provided an intelligent, articulate and thoughtful expression of his ideas on water issues. Tony was a bright, courageous, insightful and generous man who was a voice of reason and an inspiration to friends and family. He enjoyed scribing an occasional letter to the editor about social or political matters with his unique sense of humor while never wavering from a life-time mantra to "do the right thing, the first time when challenged, every time". Although dealt a bad hand health wise, Tony played it magnificently. Tony fought the battle with dignity and no self-pity which included a celebration of life at his 80th birthday party on June 8th where he was surrounded by his family. Tony is survived by his wife Lynne of 59 1/2 years, his five children; Anthony Jr., Lisa Stansbury, Renee Snyder, Christopher St. Amant (Rhonda), Cheryl Downey (Jeff), and his brother Nick St. Amant (Bonita) of Maryland. Tony was also the very proud grandfather of twelve grandchildren, six great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Tony's passing on July 4th was a fitting departing point for a genuine patriot and a really good guy.**

-----Published in Chico Enterprise-Record on July 13, 2019

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Walter Schrecker <[wschrecker@gmail.com](mailto:wschrecker@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Fri, Jul 12, 2019 6:20 am **Subject:**  
**Tony St Amant**

*.... We had some sad news on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July of the passing of a longtime USAF mentor, friend, and “brother in arms” going back to circa 1970—Tony St. Amant. This after beating the odds fighting a courageous 25-year battle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.*

*We flew together on many an 18 hour+ airborne mission out of Okinawa to Viet Nam’s Gulf of Tonkin and Laos as well as the periphery of Korea and the then Soviet Union. Needless to say you get to know someone ... the worth of a fellow aviator and officer ... the measure of the man on such missions. We then served together at Beale AFB, where he was the Wing Commander, and I was one of his Squadron Commanders. Subsequent to that, we served at ... suffered through ... the Pentagon together—he in Studies and Analysis; I in Operations and Plans.*

*After all that ... and countless emails over the years ... and enjoying his and his wonderful wife Lynne’s good company on cruises and reunion trips together over the succeeding years, I can say with a lump in my throat: Tony is one of the finest men I have known—a man of integrity, guts, and leadership by personal example. He has lived by the maxim: Do the Right Thing ... The First Time when challenged ... Every Time. I am going to miss him dearly.*

Grieving,  
Walt Schrecker  
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

\*\*\*\*\*