

## **First Lieutenant Keith Alan Walker**

First Lieutenant Keith Walker was a quiet leader, well respected and loved by all who knew him. A member of the Illustrious Class of 1973, he spent all four years at the Academy in Evil Eight Squadron. An avid sportsman, Keith enjoyed all sports especially skiing. Most winter weekends you could find him on the slopes of one of the nearby ski resorts.

Keith grew up in a military family. His father, Colonel (Ret) Herbert L. Walker Jr. served in three wars: WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam and flew several aircraft to include fighters, bombers, and helicopters. Like most military families, Keith moved often during his early years. His family ended up in Lincoln, Nebraska during Keith's high school years. He attended Lincoln Southeast High where he excelled in gymnastics. After high school, he attended the Academy Prep School before entering the Academy in June 1969.

After graduation from the Academy, Keith went to Undergraduate Navigator Training (UNT) in Sacramento, California. He spent his free time playing seven man rugby at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, skiing at Lake Tahoe, or cruising the back roads of California in his Vette. After graduating from UNT, Keith was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 35<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron, Kunsan AFB, South Korea, as a Weapons System Operator (WSO) in F-4Ds. On 30 January 1976, he was tragically killed in a mid air collision of two F-4Ds on a training mission.

Keith left a memorable and lasting impression on all who knew him. His cadet squadron mates really miss his presence at their reunion gatherings. He is survived by his sister Diane Pierce of Mountain Home, Arkansas. His legacy lives on through the son of his best friend, Al Dunlap, who named his son after him.

First Lieutenant Walker is interred at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado.



High School gymnast



Keith and sister Diane



Al Dunlap and Keith Walker