



## Loren Edward Brand

**November 23 1943—December 10, 2020**

Rather than doing an Obituary in the newspaper we all felt that the people who would most like to read about Brandy are people who know us, care for us and have held us in prayer during this dreadful time of our lives. So, with that said, here is what we would like to share with you (and what we think

Brandy would like you to know):

Loren Brand was born the 3<sup>rd</sup> child and only son of Gerald and Dorothy Brand in Niles, Michigan on November 23, 1943. He had two older sisters, Joy and Joan.

After completing high school at Niles High, he went to Dallas and attended North Texas State University. After one year he transferred to Michigan State University and graduated in 1966. During his senior year at MSU he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp to attend Officers Candidate School. He was commissioned a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on December 16, 1966.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, he married me, Tamara Jaye Isgan. Soon after we departed for Pensacola, Florida where he would begin flight school. Brandy was the top flight student for 1967. He completed his training in record time and received his wings of gold on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1968. That was 2 weeks after our first son, Jeff, was born! We all moved to New River, North Carolina (Camp Lejeune Air Base) for further flight training in helicopters. Following that, he departed for Vietnam in September, 1968.

He served in Vietnam for 13 months and flew the CH-46 as a squadron leader doing medivac, search and rescue and troop insertion/extraction. He earned 23 Air Medals (an Air Medal is awarded for meritorious achievement in aerial operations, for heroic acts in aerial operations against an armed enemy); the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry; Navy Achievement Medal with Combat V. He had rows of ribbons when he came home in late October of 1969. He completed his service with the Marines as a Captain, serving as a pilot at El Toro/Santa Ana LTA in Southern California until November of 1970.

Then he was back to Washington DC/Quantico in December of 1970 to begin new agent training with the FBI. Once he was sworn in as a Special Agent he served in St Louis, MO, Oklahoma City Resident Agencies (2), Detroit and Ann Arbor. While serving in the Poteau, OK RA in 1973 our second son, Jonathan, was born. He specialized in Foreign Counter Intelligence (principally Russia) and served as supervisor of a squad while in Detroit.

Retirement came at age 55, in 1998. We decided to make our last move ... to Ludington. It was to be the 17<sup>th</sup> move of our marriage.

Brandy was always ready and willing to talk about his kids! He was full of pride for their accomplishments and what fine men they had become. He was a proud grandfather to Jeff's kids, Mackenzie (25), Jonathan (23) and Katie (19) and Jonathan (Stacy's) daughter Phoebe (15).

He would consider his coaching the kids in football, singing in the choir and tending his beautiful gardens to be his favorite activities. Those were things he loved to do and that he did well!

On December 17<sup>th</sup> we would have celebrated our 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I feel blessed to have had him in my life for all those years. As I told my kids, there is not a single significant memory I have that does not include Brandy. I met him when I was 19 years old and have considered him to be the love of my life, my best friend, my confidant, my rock and my life. I was so blessed to have gone to a "mixer/dance" at Case Hall on the campus of MSU on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1965 ... then to be dancing with him when the fire alarm went off and he offered to help me find my sister in the crowd outside. Off we all went for pizza and I never looked back. That same night I told my parents that I had met the man I was going to marry. Sometimes you just know. I wouldn't trade knowing, loving and growing old with him for anything. I pray God will be with me and my family as we adjust to living without him and never forgetting the impact he had on all our lives. May he rest in peace in the arms of God.

By TJaye Brand

December 12, 2020

*faith over fear*