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Source Packet Overview

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Rosewell Allen (Buck) Southworth

MSGT USAF

Short Biography

Rosewell Allen “Buck” Southworth was born in Virginia around 1930 and grew up in the small town of Beaverdam during the Great Depression. As a young man, he worked in a textile factory before joining the United States Air Force.

Buck served in the Air Force during the Cold War and the Vietnam War. His service took him to different parts of the world, including Libya and Vietnam, where he worked with airplane crews and became a leader in his unit. Because of his hard work and bravery, he received important military awards, including the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star Medal.

After serving his country for more than 20 years, Buck retired from the Air Force in 1972. He later lived in Florida with his wife, Priscilla, and stayed close to his family and fellow Veterans. He passed away in 2014 and was buried at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Cape Canaveral, FL.

For more about Rosewell Allen (Buck) Southworth, listen to his wife Priscilla Southworth oral history

.



Key Historical Themes & Events

- Growing up in a small town during the Great Depression
- Working in American factories after World War II
- Serving in the United States Air Force during the Cold War
- Air Force bases and missions around the world in the 1950s and 1960s
- The Vietnam War and the role of the Air Force
- Life after military service
- Honoring Veterans in national cemeteries

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Source Packet Document List

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Rosewell Allen (Buck) Southworth

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Rosewell Allen (Buck) Southworth as a Child



Picture of “Buck” as a child in his overalls, in Beaverdam, VA.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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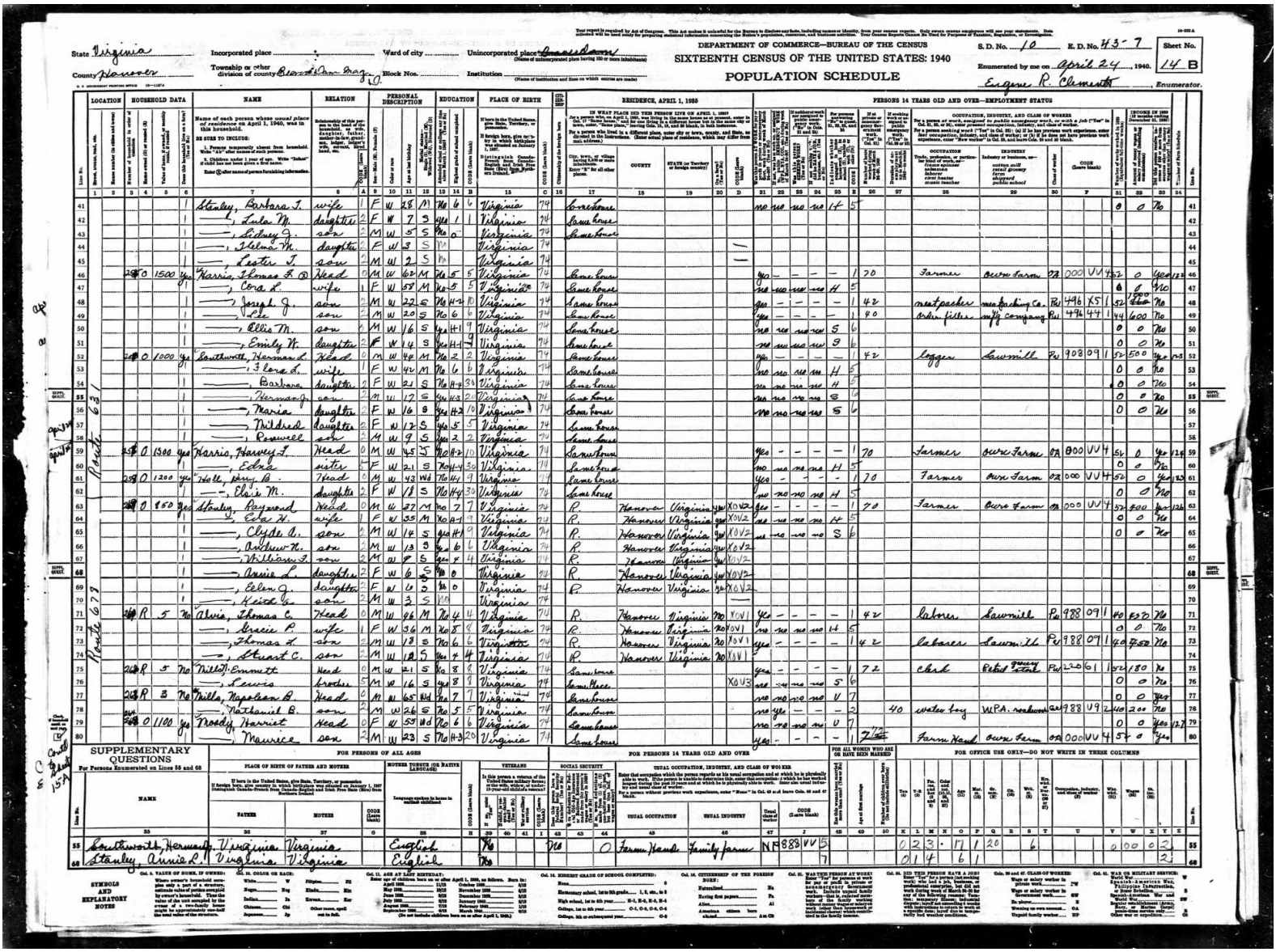
1940 Federal Census



In 1940, 9-year-old Buck (line 58) lived with his parents Herman and Flora, his three sisters Barbara (21), Maria (16), and his brother Herman Jr. (17) in Beaverdam, Hanover County, VA.

"1940 United States Census," database, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed May 14, 2026), entry for Rosewell Southworth,Hanover County, VA.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/M-T0627-04268-00266?ssrc=&usePUB=true&pId=17336616.

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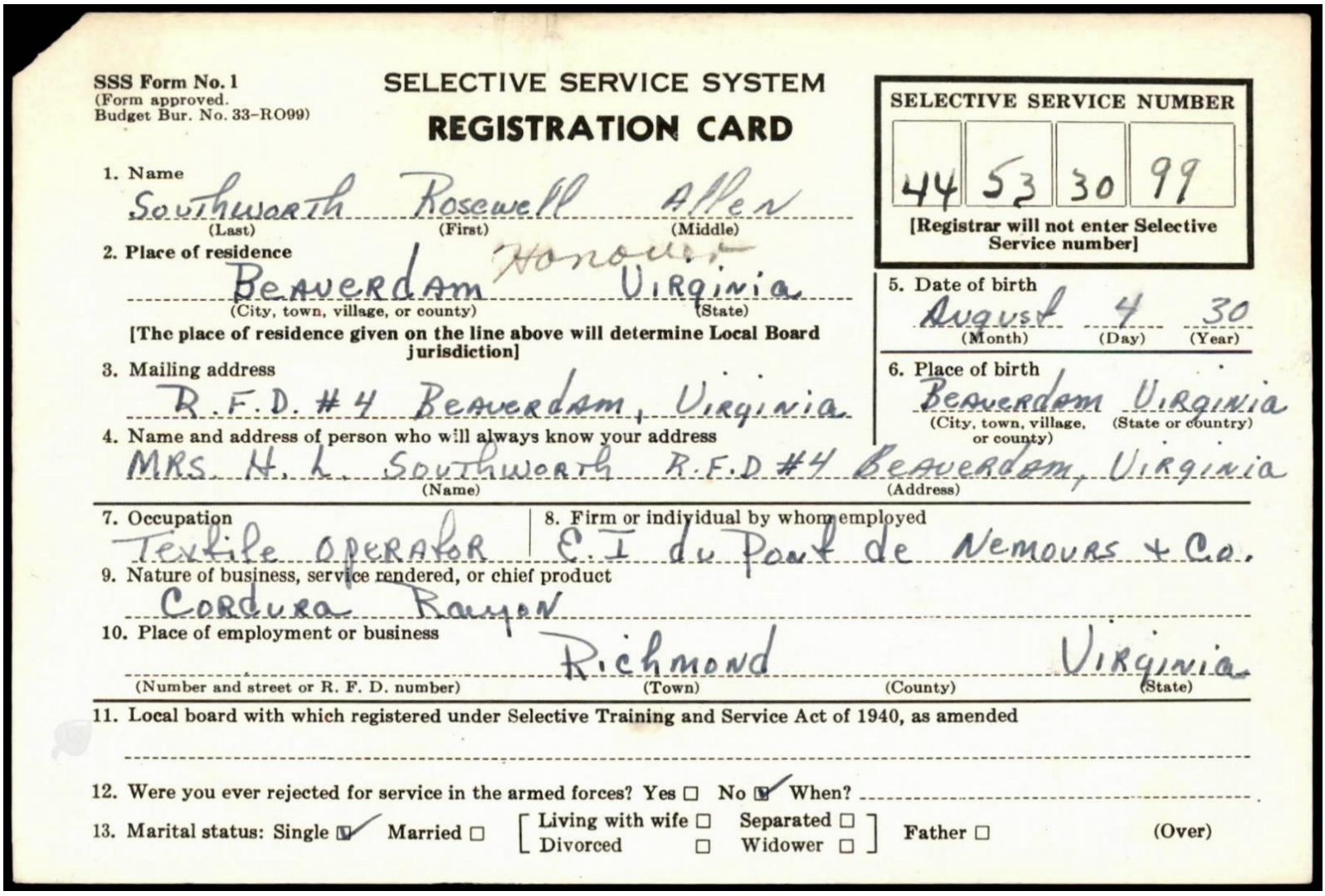
Registration Card (Front)



SSS Form No. 1
(Form approved.
Budget Bur. No. 33-RO99)

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

REGISTRATION CARD

SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER

44 53 30 99

[Registrar will not enter Selective Service number]

1. Name: Southworth (Last) Rosewell (First) Allen (Middle)

2. Place of residence: Beaverdam (City, town, village, or county) Hanover Virginia (State)

[The place of residence given on the line above will determine Local Board jurisdiction]

3. Mailing address: R.F.D. #4 Beaverdam, Virginia

4. Name and address of person who will always know your address: Mrs. H. L. Southworth (Name) R.F.D #4 Beaverdam, Virginia (Address)

5. Date of birth: August (Month) 4 (Day) 30 (Year)

6. Place of birth: Beaverdam (City, town, village, or county) Virginia (State or country)

7. Occupation: Textile Operator

8. Firm or individual by whom employed: E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.

9. Nature of business, service rendered, or chief product: Cordura Rayon

10. Place of employment or business: Richmond (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) Virginia (State)

11. Local board with which registered under Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended

12. Were you ever rejected for service in the armed forces? Yes ☐ No ☑ When?

13. Marital status: Single ☑ Married ☐ [Living with wife ☐ Separated ☐ Divorced ☐ Widower ☐] Father ☐ (Over)

In 1948, Buck registered at Beaverdam, VA for service. He worked as a textile operator for Dupont de Nemours & Co. in Richemond, VA and was single.

"US, Korean War Era Draft Card, 1948-1959," database, *Fold3* (http://www.fold3.com: accessed May 14, 2026), entry for Rosewell Southworth.

https://www.fold3.com/image/730835878/southworth-rosewell-allen-page-1-us-korean-war-era-draft-registration-cards-1948-1959

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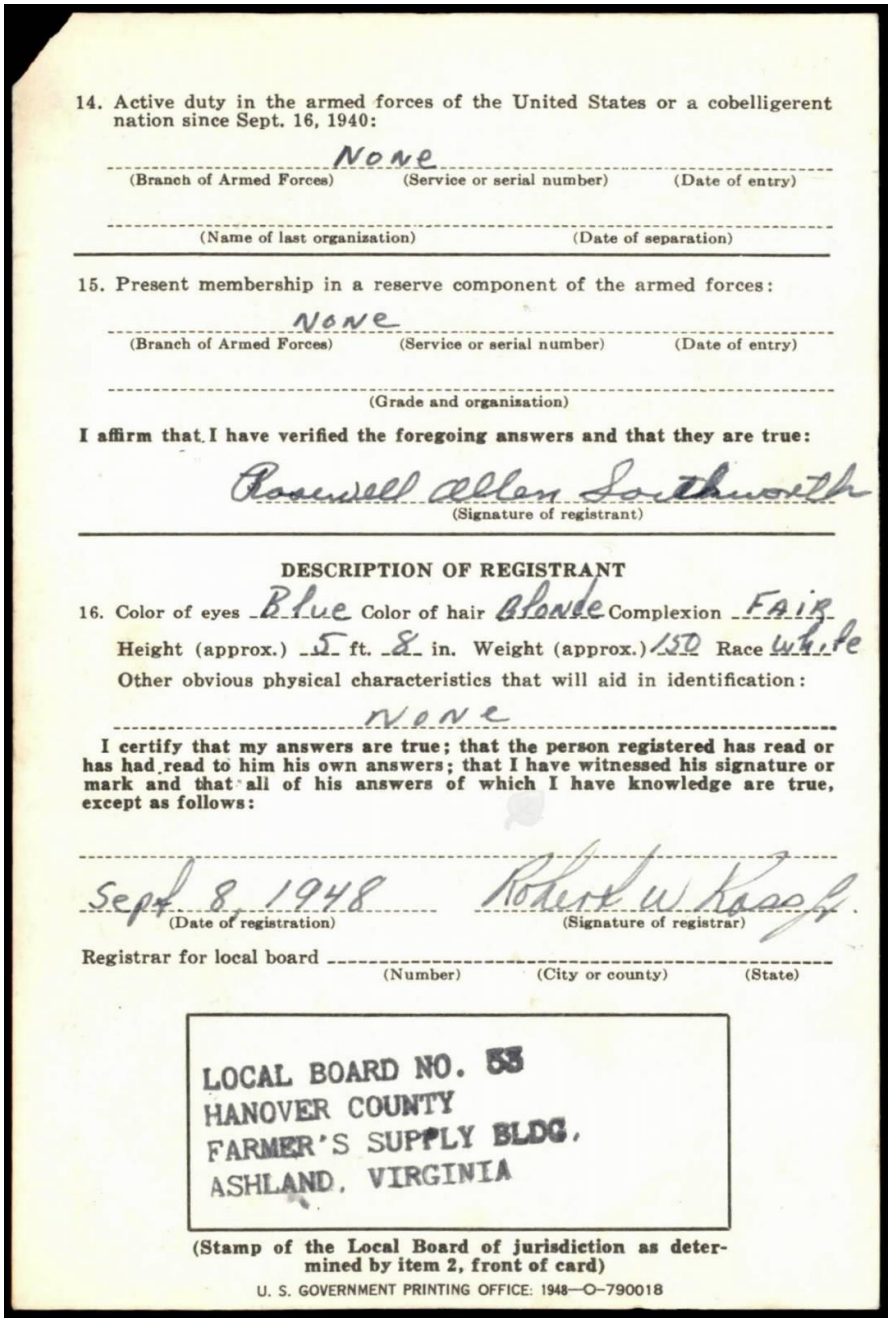
Registration Card (Back)



14. Active duty in the armed forces of the United States or a cobelligerent nation since Sept. 16, 1940:

None

(Branch of Armed Forces) (Service or serial number) (Date of entry)

(Name of last organization) (Date of separation)

15. Present membership in a reserve component of the armed forces:

None

(Branch of Armed Forces) (Service or serial number) (Date of entry)

(Grade and organization)

I affirm that I have verified the foregoing answers and that they are true:

Rosewell Allen Southworth

(Signature of registrant)

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

16. Color of eyes Blue Color of hair Blonde Complexion FAIR

Height (approx.) 5 ft. 8 in. Weight (approx.) 150 Race White

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:

None

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Sept 8, 1948 Robert W Kass Jr.

(Date of registration) (Signature of registrar)

Registrar for local board

(Number) (City or county) (State)

LOCAL BOARD NO. 53
HANOVER COUNTY
FARMER'S SUPPLY BLDG.
ASHLAND, VIRGINIA

(Stamp of the Local Board of jurisdiction as determined by item 2, front of card)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1948—O—790018

The back of Buck's registration card provides his physical description: he stood 5'8" tall, weighed 150 lbs, had blond hair, fair skin, and blue eyes.

"US, Korean War Era Draft Card, 1948-1959," database, *Fold3* (http://www.fold3.com: accessed May 14, 2026), entry for Rosewell Southworth.

https://www.fold3.com/image/730835878/southworth-rosewell-allen-page-2-us-korean-war-era-draft-registration-cards-1948-1959

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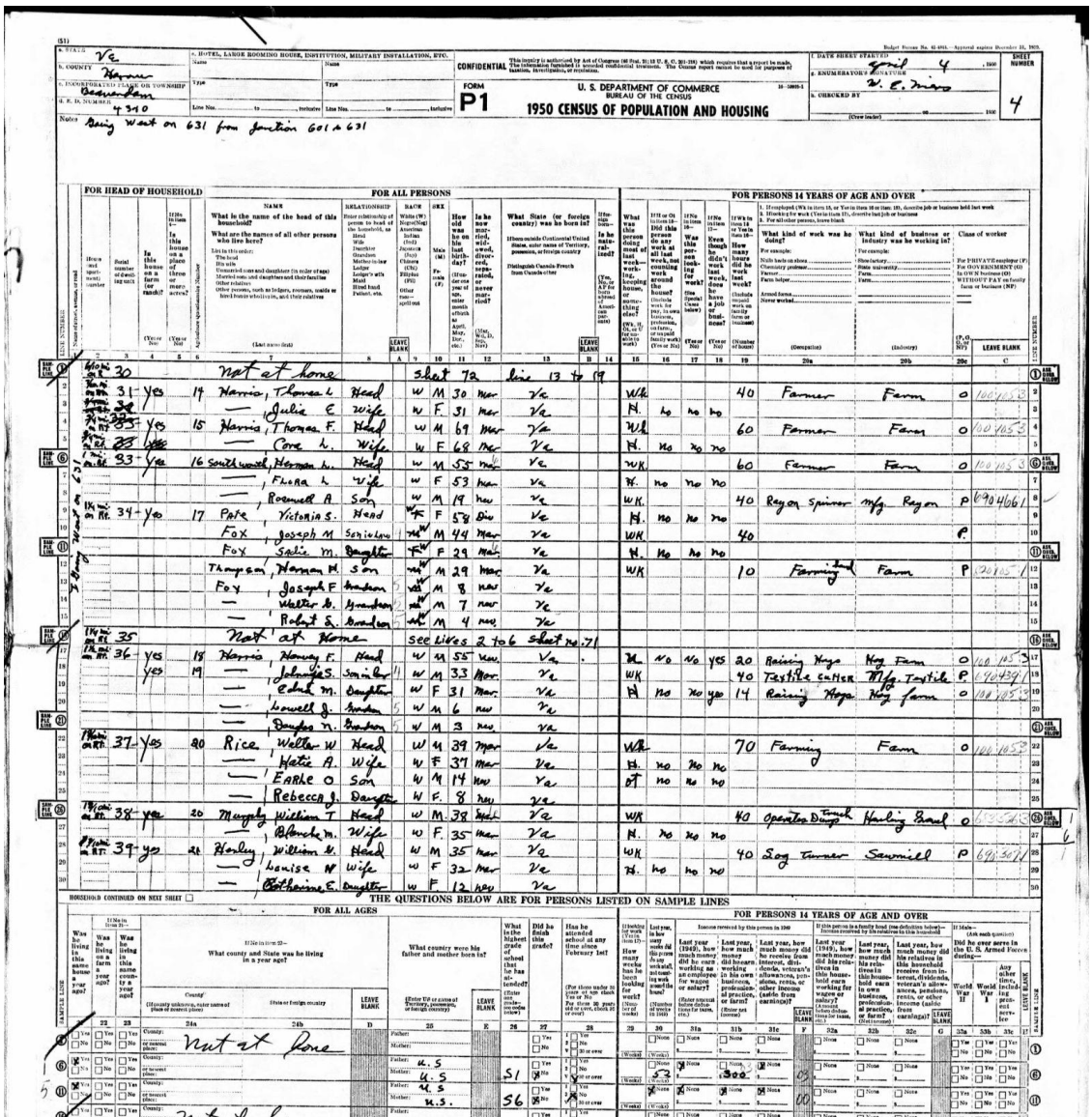
1950 Federal Census



In 1950, 19-year-old Buck (line 8) still lived with his parents. He was single and worked as a rayon spinner in a factory that used rayon, a synthetic fiber, to make cloth.

"1950 United States Census," database, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed May 14, 2026), entry for Rosewell Southworth,Hanover County, VA.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/M-T0627-04268-00266?ssrc=&usePUB=true&pId=17336616

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Buck Working on a Plane



In the late 1950s or early 1960s, Buck and a crew member taking a break from working on a plane, possibly in Tripoli, Libya.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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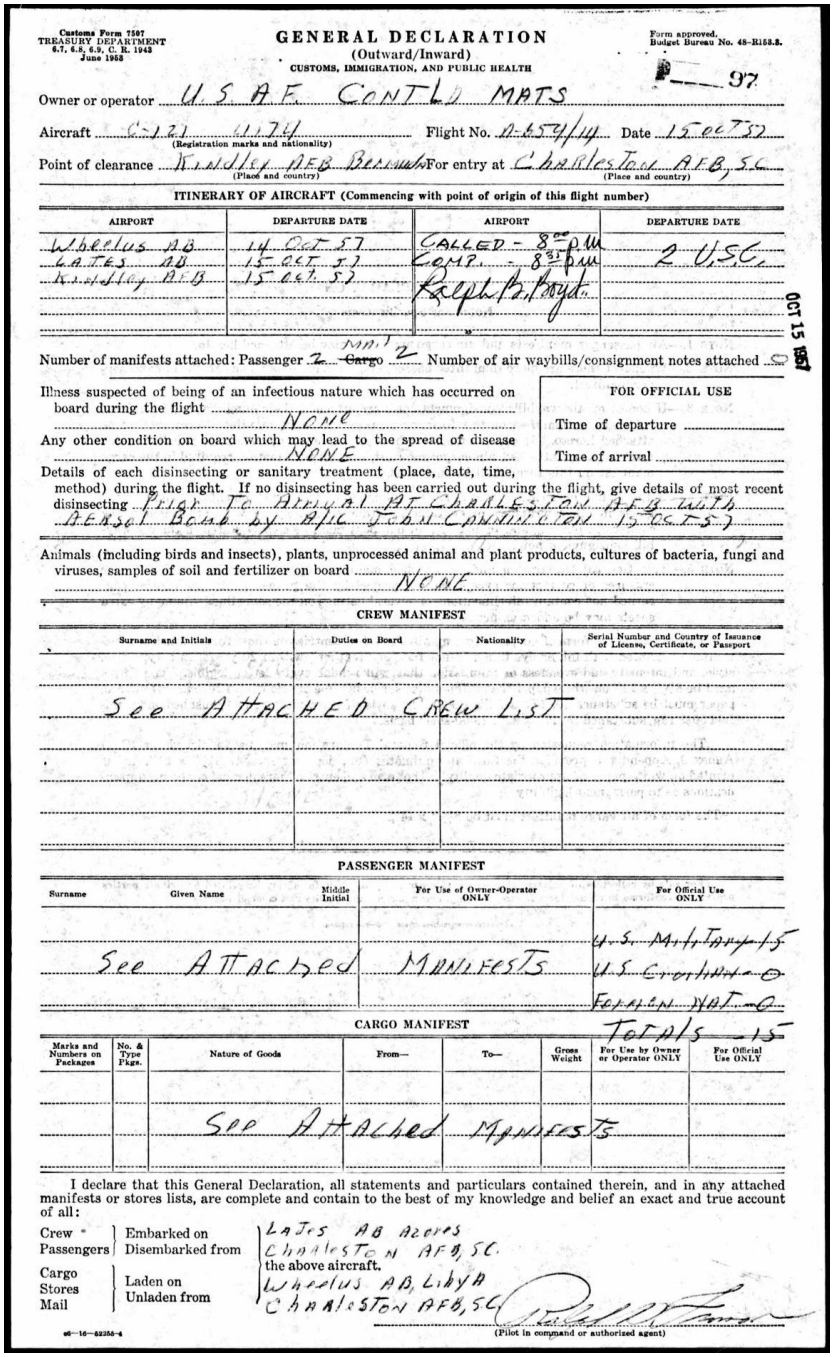
Passenger and Crew List (1/2)



Customs Form 7507
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
6.7, 6.8, 6.9, C. R. 1943
June 1953

GENERAL DECLARATION
(Outward/Inward)
CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Form approved.
Budget Bureau No. 48-R153.3.

97

Owner or operator U.S. A.F. CONTLD MATS

Aircraft C-121 U174 (Registration marks and nationality) Flight No. A-654/14 Date 15 OCT 57

Point of clearance Kindley AFB Bermuda (Place and country) For entry at Charleston AFB, S.C. (Place and country)

ITINERARY OF AIRCRAFT (Commencing with point of origin of this flight number)

AIRPORT	DEPARTURE DATE	AIRPORT	DEPARTURE DATE
Wheelus AB	14 OCT 57	CALLED - 8:00 pm	2 U.S.C.
LAJES AB	15 OCT 57	COMP. - 8:35 pm	
Kindley AFB	15 OCT 57	Ralph B. Boyd	

OCT 15 1957

Number of manifests attached: Passenger 2 ~~Cargo~~ Mail 2 Number of air waybills/consignment notes attached 0

Illness suspected of being of an infectious nature which has occurred on board during the flight NONE

Any other condition on board which may lead to the spread of disease NONE

FOR OFFICIAL USE
Time of departure
Time of arrival

Details of each disinsecting or sanitary treatment (place, date, time, method) during the flight. If no disinsecting has been carried out during the flight, give details of most recent disinsecting Prior To Arrival At Charleston AFB with Aersol Bomb by A/C John Cannington 15 OCT 57

Animals (including birds and insects), plants, unprocessed animal and plant products, cultures of bacteria, fungi and viruses, samples of soil and fertilizer on board NONE

CREW MANIFEST

Surname and Initials	Duties on Board	Nationality	Serial Number and Country of Issuance of License, Certificate, or Passport
See Attached Crew List			

PASSENGER MANIFEST

Surname	Given Name	Middle Initial	For Use of Owner-Operator ONLY	For Official Use ONLY
See Attached Manifests				U.S. Military - 15 U.S. Civilian - 0 Foreign Nat. - 0 Totals - 15

CARGO MANIFEST

Marks and Numbers on Packages	No. & Type Pkgs.	Nature of Goods	From—	To—	Gross Weight	For Use by Owner or Operator ONLY	For Official Use ONLY
		See Attached Manifests					

I declare that this General Declaration, all statements and particulars contained therein, and in any attached manifests or stores lists, are complete and contain to the best of my knowledge and belief an exact and true account of all:

Crew / Passengers — Embarked on / Disembarked from: Lajes AB Azores / Charleston AFB, S.C.

Cargo / Stores / Mail — Laden on / Unladen from: the above aircraft. Wheelus AB, Libya / Charleston AFB, S.C.

[signature]
(Pilot in command or authorized agent)

e6—16—52255-4

On October 15, 1957, 27-year-old Buck flew back to the US on board a C-121 filled with cargo from Wheelus Air Base, Libya. According to the manifest, Buck boarded the plane in Lajes, Azores, Portugal and landed in Charleston, SC.

"Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Charleston, South Carolina, 12/1954 - 12/1982," database, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed May 14, 2026), entry for Rosewell Southworth.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2996/images/42824_338092-00138?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pId=75330

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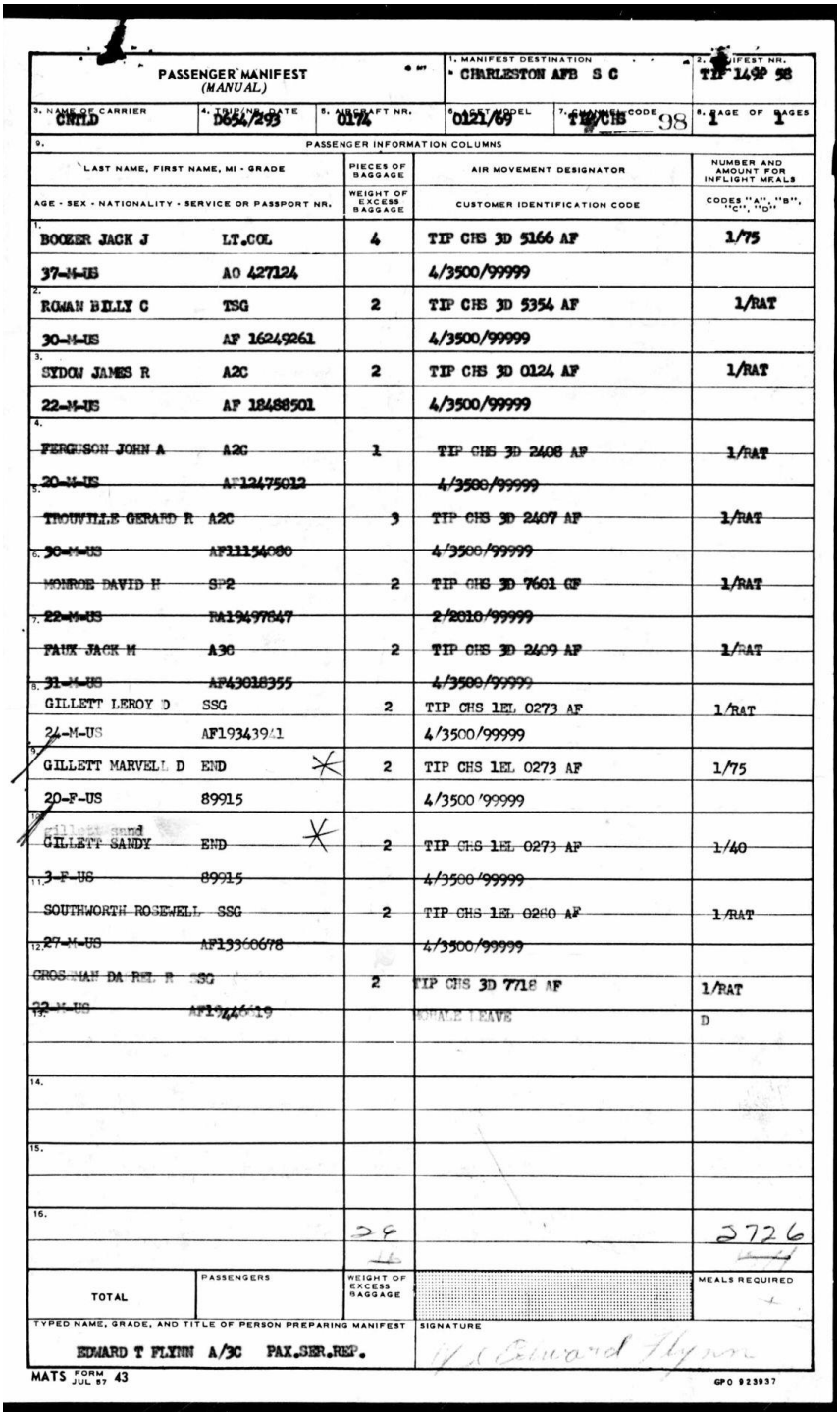
Passenger and Crew List (2/2)



PASSENGER MANIFEST (MANUAL)

1. MANIFEST DESTINATION: CHARLESTON AFB S C
2. MANIFEST NR.: TIP 149P 58
3. NAME OF CARRIER: CNTLD
4. TRIP/NR. DATE: D654/293
5. AIRCRAFT NR.: 0174
6. ACFT MODEL: 0121/69
7. CHANNEL CODE: TIP/CHS 98
8. PAGE OF PAGES: 1 1

9. PASSENGER INFORMATION COLUMNS

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MI - GRADE / AGE - SEX - NATIONALITY - SERVICE OR PASSPORT NR.		PIECES OF BAGGAGE / WEIGHT OF EXCESS BAGGAGE	AIR MOVEMENT DESIGNATOR / CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION CODE	NUMBER AND AMOUNT FOR INFLIGHT MEALS / CODES "A", "B", "C", "D"
1. BOOZER JACK J	LT.COL	4	TIP CHS 3D 5166 AF	1/75
37-M-US	AO 427124		4/3500/99999	
2. ROWAN BILLY C	TSG	2	TIP CHS 3D 5354 AF	1/RAT
30-M-US	AF 16249261		4/3500/99999	
3. SYDOW JAMES R	A2C	2	TIP CHS 3D 0124 AF	1/RAT
22-M-US	AF 18488501		4/3500/99999	
4. ~~FERGUSON JOHN A~~	~~A2C~~	~~1~~	~~TIP CHS 3D 2408 AF~~	~~1/RAT~~
~~20-M-US~~	~~AF12475012~~		~~4/3500/99999~~	
5. ~~TROUVILLE GERARD R~~	~~A2C~~	~~3~~	~~TIP CHS 3D 2407 AF~~	~~1/RAT~~
~~30-M-US~~	~~AF11154080~~		~~4/3500/99999~~	
6. ~~MONROE DAVID H~~	~~SP2~~	~~2~~	~~TIP CHS 3D 7601 CF~~	~~1/RAT~~
~~22-M-US~~	~~RA19497847~~		~~2/2010/99999~~	
7. ~~FAUX JACK M~~	~~A3C~~	~~2~~	~~TIP CHS 3D 2409 AF~~	~~1/RAT~~
~~31-M-US~~	~~AF43018355~~		~~4/3500/99999~~	
8. GILLETT LEROY D	SSG	2	TIP CHS 1EL 0273 AF	1/RAT
24-M-US	AF19343941		4/3500/99999	
9. GILLETT MARVELL D	END	2	TIP CHS 1EL 0273 AF	1/75
20-F-US	89915		4/3500/99999	
10. gillett sand ~~GILLETT SANDY~~	~~END~~	~~2~~	~~TIP CHS 1EL 0273 AF~~	~~1/40~~
~~3-F-US~~	~~89915~~		~~4/3500/99999~~	
11. ~~SOUTHWORTH ROSEWELL~~	~~SSG~~	~~2~~	~~TIP CHS 1EL 0280 AF~~	~~1/RAT~~
~~27-M-US~~	~~AF13360678~~		~~4/3500/99999~~	
12. ~~CROSSMAN DA REL R~~	~~SSG~~	2	TIP CHS 3D 7718 AF	1/RAT
~~22-M-US~~	~~AF19446619~~		MONALE LEAVE	D
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.		29		2726
TOTAL	PASSENGERS	WEIGHT OF EXCESS BAGGAGE		MEALS REQUIRED

TYPED NAME, GRADE, AND TITLE OF PERSON PREPARING MANIFEST: EDWARD T FLYNN A/3C PAX.SER.REP.

SIGNATURE: Edward Flynn

MATS FORM JUL 57 43 GPO 923937

On October 15, 1957, Buck was 1 of 15 military members to land in the US at the Charleston, SC Air Force Base (AFB).

"Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Charleston, South Carolina, 12/1954 - 12/1982," database, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed May 14, 2026), entry for Rosewell Southworth.

https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2996/records/75330

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Buck and his Crew in Camron, Vietnam



In the mid-1960s, Buck and his crew, from left to right: Bowell, Southworth, Moore, Williams, Holley standing in front of their plane tail number 24474, in Camron, Vietnam.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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Flight Safety Award



On April 1, 1964, the Air Force presented Buck this award in recognition of his flight safety record “in aircraft accident prevention,” while he served as part of the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) supporting the US base at Camron (Cam Rahn Bay), Vietnam.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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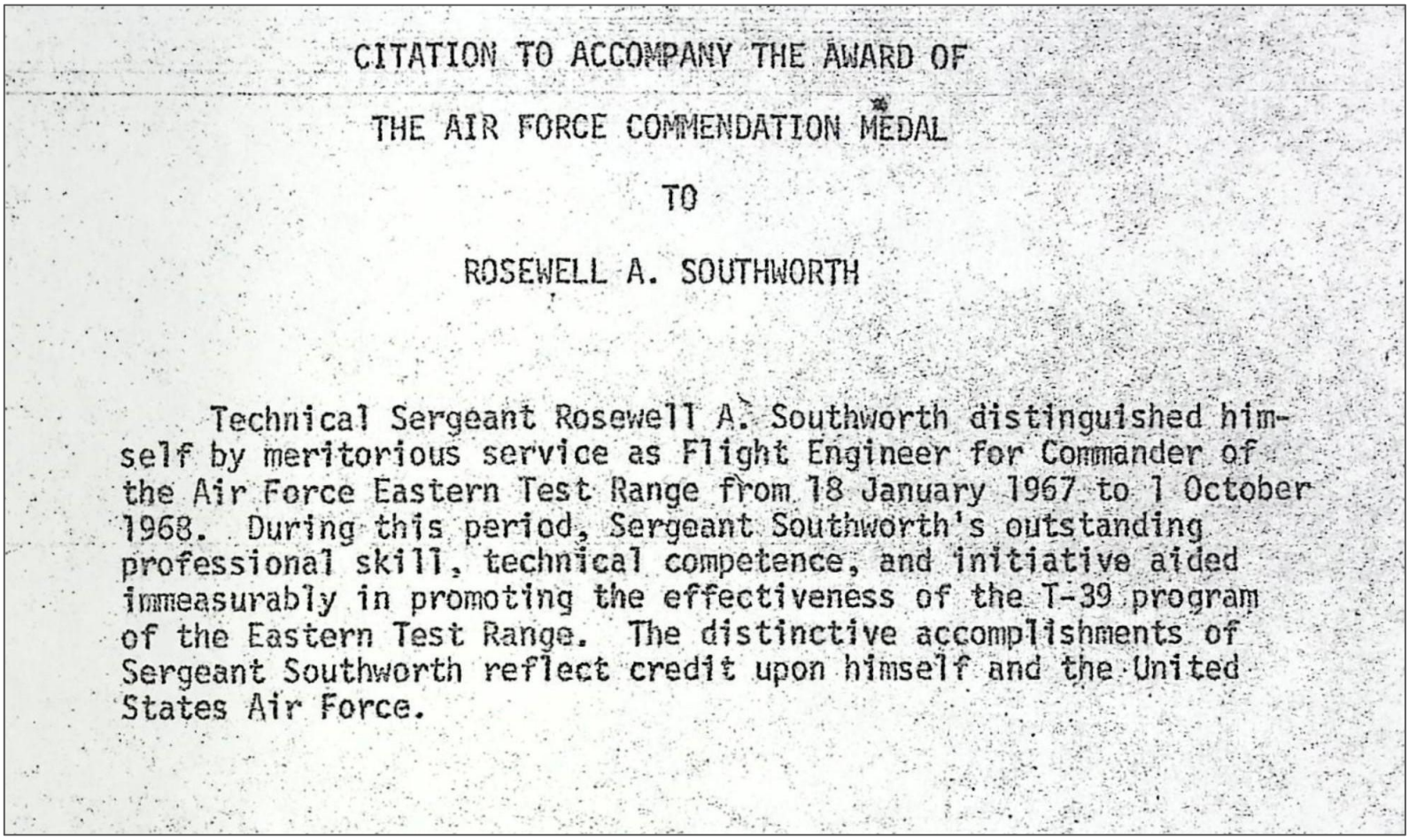
Citation for the Award of the Air Force Commendation Medal



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

TO

ROSEWELL A. SOUTHWORTH

Technical Sergeant Rosewell A. Southworth distinguished himself by meritorious service as Flight Engineer for Commander of the Air Force Eastern Test Range from 18 January 1967 to 1 October 1968. During this period, Sergeant Southworth's outstanding professional skill, technical competence, and initiative aided immeasurably in promoting the effectiveness of the T-39 program of the Eastern Test Range. The distinctive accomplishments of Sergeant Southworth reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

On October 1, 1968, the Air Force awarded Buck with the Air Force Commendation Medal during his time working at the base in Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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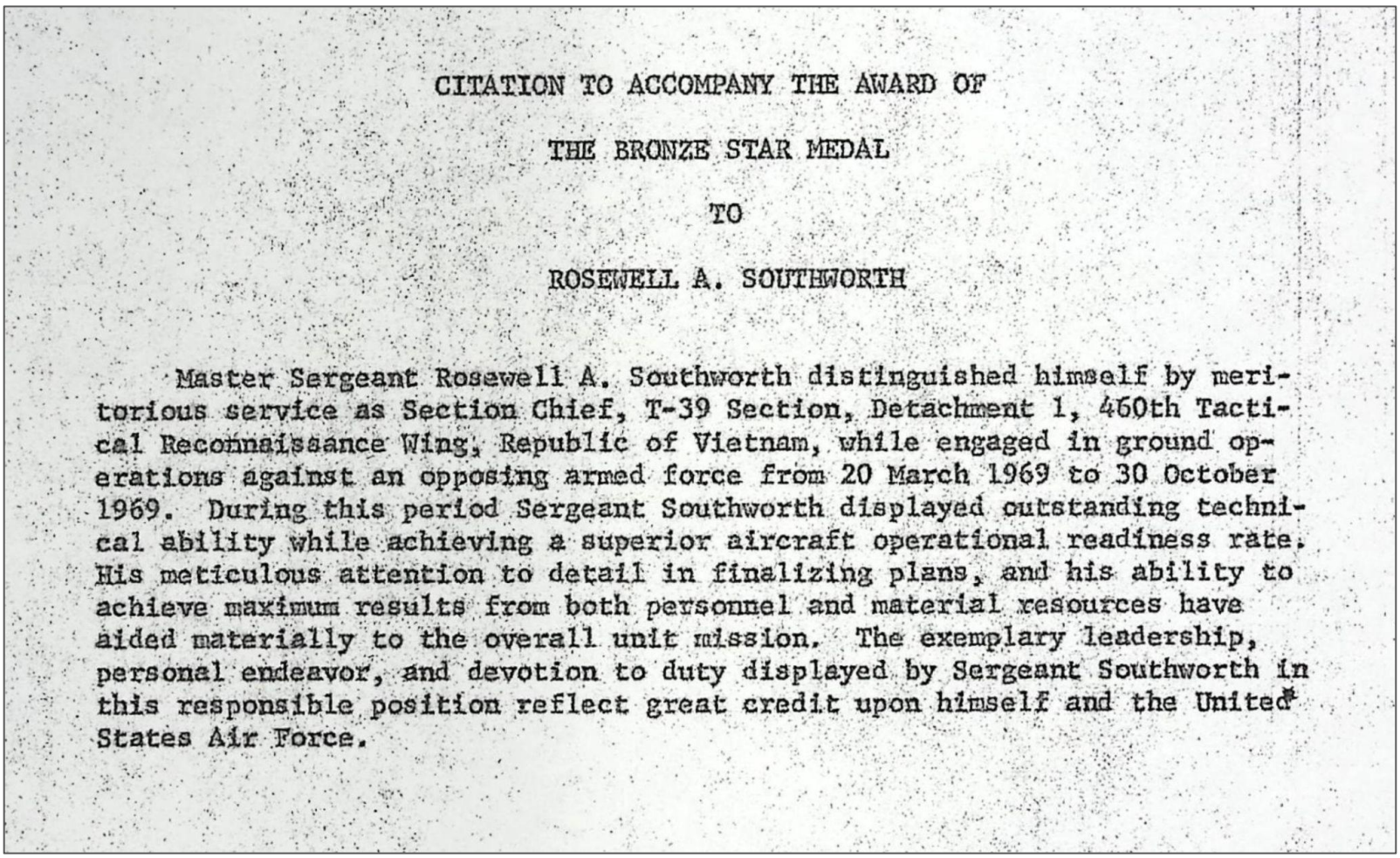
Citation for the Award of the Bronze Star Medal



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

TO

ROSEWELL A. SOUTHWORTH

Master Sergeant Rosewell A. Southworth distinguished himself by meritorious service as Section Chief, T-39 Section, Detachment 1, 460th Tactical Reconnaisaance Wing, Republic of Vietnam, while engaged in ground operations against an opposing armed force from 20 March 1969 to 30 October 1969. During this period Sergeant Southworth displayed outstanding technical ability while achieving a superior aircraft operational readiness rate. His meticulous attention to detail in finalizing plans, and his ability to achieve maximum results from both personnel and material resources have aided materially to the overall unit mission. The exemplary leadership, personal endeavor, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Southworth in this responsible position reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

On October 10, 1969, the Air Force awarded Buck with a Bronze Star Medal for his service as a Section Chief in an engagement in group operation against Vietnamese forces.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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Retirement from the Air Force



In May 1972, Buck retired from the Air Force, with General David Jones, congratulating him. (Cropped picture on the front page of this source packet)

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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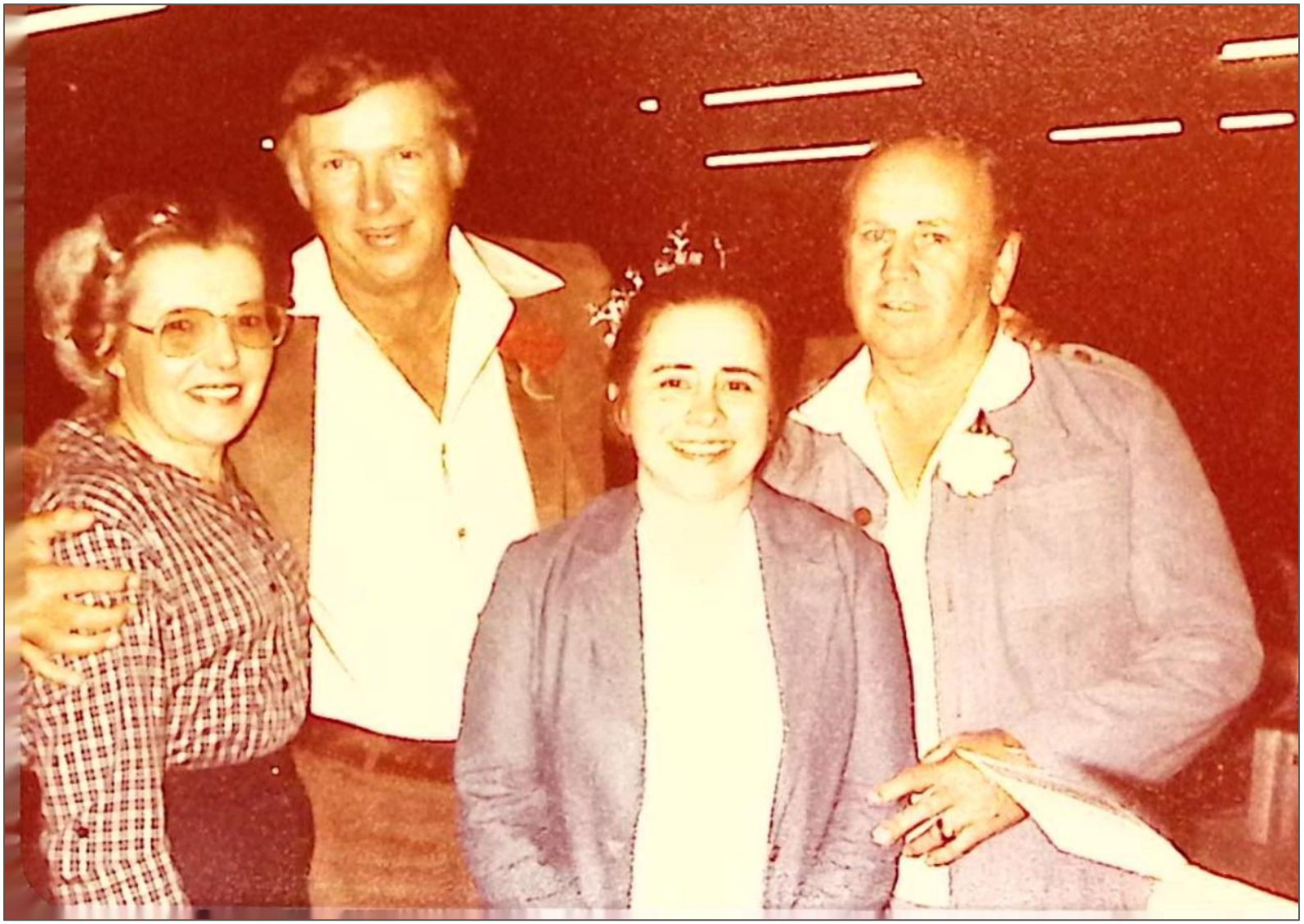
Buck and Priscilla's Wedding



Buck and Priscilla, on the right, got married on April 9, 1982 in Fox lake Park, Titusville, FL. The Colonel who flew with Buck was among the guests.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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Family Photo



Buck and Priscilla with their nieces, In Titusville, FL in the early 2010s.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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Buck's Obituary

R. A. (Buck) Southworth

Born August 4, 1930 in Hanover County, Va.

Passed November 17, 2014 in Titusville, Fl.

Buck is survived by his loving wife of almost 34 years, Priscilla; and many loving nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and several cousins in surrounding areas of Beaverdam and Montpelier. Predeceased in death by his parents Herman and Flora Southworth, brothers Junior and Bryan, and sisters Flora Ferguson, Billie Hall and Barbara Harris.

He joined the Army/Air Corp in 1952, retiring from the Air Force in 1972 where he rose to the position of Master Sergeant, serving two tours in Viet Nam; earning a Bronze Star; becoming a POW for a period of two days before being rescued. He flew on many diplomatic and sometimes covert missions which he thoroughly enjoyed. Often talked about dropping trees that were listening posts on the ground at night to catch the enemy. Always said that he would go back in a heartbeat if he could be twenty years younger, and of course, the Air Force give him a promotion. The Air Force was his way of life and he carried what he learned on into civilian life. He could not just retire though - had to keep working because that was him and you could not change him. God knows Priscilla tried to get him to slow down after his open heart surgery (due to Agent Orange) but it would work for a few days and then he would be right back at it again. He got into the retail clothing business at the flea markets in Florida and gradually got into antique tractor shows selling antiques and the clothes. Loved meeting all their friends every year at all the shows and helping each other set up. He so looked foward to those good times.

Buck loved his family and his country - a very vocal and passionate Republican - but he would have given you the shirt off his back even if you were a Democrat. He grew up helping his parents on the farm in Beaverdam but wanted to see the world and the Air Force gave him that opportunity. It was always a highlight for Miss Flora when her baby boy would come home on leave. She would call everyone in the family and the neighbors to stop in for a visit with Buck. That would also continue in later life when he had retired from the Air Force and would come back home for a visit.

Now God has a new flyboy to help him in heaven, where he is able to soar in the clouds once again.

Buck's obituary originally published in the Richmond Times on November 2014. It recalls his life from his birth in Virginia, his military service, to his life postservice.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

Buck's Funeral Service



On December 3, 2014, family and friends gathered to honor Buck during his funeral service.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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Inurnment Ceremony



Buck's inurnment ceremony at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, FL took place on November 25, 2017.

Southworth family Archives. We wish to thank the Southworth family for their participation in the UCF VLP program in memory of their loved one Rosewell Allen Southworth.

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Rosewell Allen Southworth's Marker



Rosewell Allen Southworth's niche in Columbarium Section A-A3, Row B, Site 32 at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Cape Canaveral, FL.

UCF VLP Archives.