

Don Barsumian

Don Barsumian joined the Air Force on August 13, 1952. After basic training at Parks AFB and tech school at Amarillo AFB, Texas he was assigned to the 479th Field Maintenance Squadron George AFB in Victorville, California. Don was on temporary duty assignment to the 72nd when they went to Ladd AFB Alaska on Operation North-Star in February 1953 (a very cold winter!) While his immediate supervisor (a T/Sgt) was on leave they temporarily gave an AFSC of 43171 and transferred me to the 72nd Fighter Bomber Squadron. It was sort of a railroad job because no one else wanted to go but it worked out in the long run.



He shipped with the 21st Fighter Bomber Wing to France in late 1954. Airman Barsumian was assigned to the 72nd Fighter Bomber Squadron, Chambley AB, France as a Mechanic (43151C - Aircraft Maintenance) Crew Chief for the F-86 Aircraft Tail # FU-240 from November 1954 to July 1956. T/Sgt Jerry Reno was his Flight Chief. All that Don can remember about his experience in France is that the unit worked very hard and during the winter months it was very cold on the flight line!!

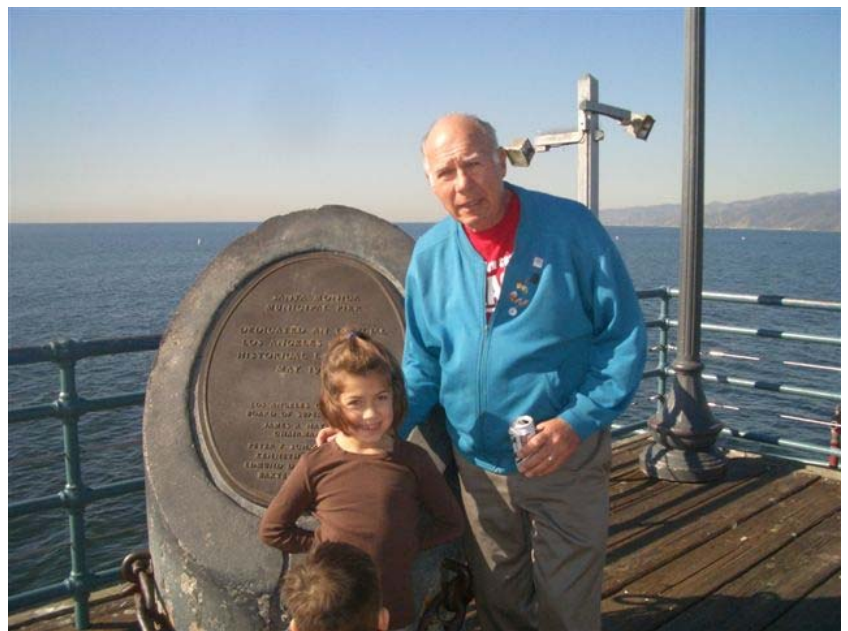
Don returned to the United States in July 1956 and received an Honorable Discharge after having served 3 years, 11 months and 19 days (as if he was counting!).

Upon return to his home in Los Angeles, California Don returned to school and attended Northrop University and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering.

After graduation he went to work for a company named Pacific Optical Co. After Pacific Optical he was employed by Space Recovery Systems and then finally for the company he stayed with most of his working career, Air Research Manufacturing Co. (The Garrett Corp. now Honeywell). Don was employed by them for 32 years as a Contract Manager. During his Career he traveled the United States, Korea and France for the company.

In 1971 Don married Marianne Donovan and they have two children. A daughter named Melissa who was born in March 1972 and a son named Richard who was born in March 1973. Melissa now has two children named Kaitlyn and Braden making Don a happy grandfather. Don's wife Marianne passed away in January of 2005 after almost 34 years of marriage.

Don retired in 1994 and is still living in Los Angeles, California.



Don with his granddaughter Melissa.