

Daniel M. Graves, Jr



For more than 40 years there was no one more recognizable in the Association of Old Crows than Dan Graves. Wearing his signature black cowboy hat and string tie, he officiated' as the Master of Ceremonies for over 1100 functions in 41 states. Senator Barry Goldwater and Vice President Spiro T. Agnew were two of the hundreds of dignitaries, Generals and Colonels who were introduced, humorously retired, and/or entertained by Dan Graves.

However, Dan was more than a showman. He began his career as a junior electrician at the Fairfield Air Depot, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH having studied electrical engineering at the University of Oklahoma. From 1944 to 1946, he was a Navy radar technician and then returned to Wright-Patterson working in the Aircraft Radiation Laboratory. Later, he moved to the Electronic Warfare Division of the Avionics Laboratory and eventually to Wright Aeronautical Laboratories as a senior staff member.

The *Avionics Laboratory* was the organization pioneering development of low observable (stealth) technology; research into revolutionary active phased array radars; airborne lasers; electronic warfare jammers; terminally guided laser weapons; airborne

forward looking infrared (FLIR) technology; and anti-jam radio communications, among many others. Dan made many contributions to the Avionics Laboratory making nearly monthly trips to Washington, D.C. to orally report the status of Defense Contracts to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is remembered most for his ability to capture the attention of an audience and convey a message.



Dan was a multiple winner of Toastmaster International's "Humorous Speech Contests" in the state of Ohio in the 1960's and 1970's, receiving national recognition. A lifelong HAM operator, he not only ruled the airwaves, but was the featured speaker at the "Hamvention" (Dayton's largest convention) for many years before retiring.

A founding member of the AOC, Dan contributed the "Operator 750" column to the OLD CROWS, Journal of Electronic Defense magazine. After retiring from WPAFB in 1984, he continued to write "Operator 750" and promoted the Kittyhawk Chapter's annual scholarship fund.

Dan was the recipient of the National AOC Life Achievement Award, the National AOC Silver Medal for service to the AOC, El Cuervo Viejo IV (The Old Crow IV), and has the Kittyhawk Chapter AOC Scholarship Fund at Wright State University named in his honor. On November 17, 1992, Congressman Clarence "Bud" Brown, led the Dan Graves Celebrity Roast with more than 360 people in attendance. In March of 2000, the Kittyhawk Chapter held a special birthday party to celebrate Dan's 80th. Over 200 people attended.

Dan was born in Dill City, Oklahoma on March 22, 1920. He was raised in Norman, Oklahoma and attended the University of Oklahoma, studying Electrical Engineering and playing trombone in OU's marching band. There he met Froma Louise Pierson, his future wife. They were married May 12, 1942, making Dayton, Ohio their permanent home, following the war. Dan was married to Froma Louise for 47 years. Froma Louise passed away in 1990. Dan is survived by their three children, Mona Royer, Daniel M. Graves III and Douglas Graves, as well as six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Dan spent his last years at the Alzheimer's Center in Dayton.

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March 22nd, 1920 - December 6th, 2010