



Carvel Edwin Mahaffey, Jr. started his career out of college when he joined the AF and applied for pilot training in TX. While on the waitlist, a group of guys were approached and offered the opportunity to start the first training class for something brand new called Radar Training. This began his 20 years of active duty as a navigator in the USAF.

His first station was in Anchorage, Alaska at Elmendorf AFB. In 1951, an extensive radar system was in place to monitor the Pacific at the height of the Cold War and the F-89 fighter planes were regularly dispatched over the Pacific, one with a pilot and a young navigator named Mahaffey in the jump seat. He was a member of the 10th Air division - 66th Flight Interceptor Squadron. From there the Mahaffey family, with small children in tow, moved to KY where he was an Assistant Professor at the University of KY. He then was stationed at Tachikawa Air Force Base in Japan where he served as the navigator in a C-124 (known affectionately as "Old Shakey") all over Asia. His next postings were Dobbins AFB in Marietta and McGuire AFB in NJ where he was a navigator in cargo planes all over South Asia, Africa, Europe, and Vietnam.

In 1971, after 20 years active duty, Lt. Col Mahaffey retired to begin a 20 year career creating and building the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (AFJROTC) program at Northside High School. Through his extraordinary leadership as the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor (SASI) of the NSHS AFJROTC in coordination with his Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) counterparts (Aerospace Science Instructors – ASI), the Northside AFJROTC unit was consistently awarded the distinguished/honor unit citations making it one of the most successful AFJROTC programs in the country. Under his leadership, the AFJROTC program enjoyed much success through academia, the armed forces drill teams, unarmed drill teams, model rocketry teams, saber teams, color guard and other functional teams focused on aiding the Warner Robins community.

The Armed and Unarmed Drills teams competitively performed against well-endowed JROTC teams (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine); some of which became annual rivals,

i.e. the Golden Boots, Army JROTC (Central High, Macon) and Warner Robins High, AFJROTC. Those competitions were held in DeLand, FL, Florida State University, Georgia Military College and the International City Drill competition (Warner Robins). The NSHS teams were very competitive and consistently won 1st place victories throughout the southeast. Under the leadership of LtCol Mahaffey, his cadets won the state JROTC championship 12 times and the national JROTC Championship 8 times. As a result of the success of this program, AFJROTC armed drill teams and the honor guard consistently conducted the pre-game shows for local football games. The Saber team received unique opportunities to "arch" sabers for the U.S. Air Force at multiple Robins Air Force Base functions (formal dining-in, weddings, etc).

Noting the efficacy of the armed drill team outstanding program, LtCol Mahaffey was astute in coordinating with Robins Air Force Base, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, the parental booster program and city-wide philanthropists to assist the team in maintaining its well-noted "M-1 Garan Rifle", used by the teams in competition; the M-1 was the standard battle rifle used during World War II and the Korean War. It is also used interchangeably by the Soldiers guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

To ensure AFJROTC students would benefit from the aspects of "military" discipline, history of the U.S. Air Force and academics associated with the theory of flight, LtCol Mahaffey insisted upon leader development through exploratory and hands on programs. Indicative of his creative approach to leveraging available opportunities, Senior AFJROTC cadets were able to participate in a refueling mission aboard a U.S. Air Force KC-135 (Air Refueler); a very unique hands-on experience to familiarize cadets with our nation's flight and refueling operations. In addition, he set up and executed other unique operational training venues such as visits to Cape Canaveral in which cadets benefited from tours about rocket and space travel. Cadets benefited through his unique educational incites by conducting visits to St Augustine, the oldest US City, and other cities of interests. These trips were invaluable and contributed immensely to a very robust and popular AFJROTC program at Northside High School.

In addition to the multiple programs listed above, LtCol Mahaffey embraced the daily and local school activities as the AFJROTC program crowned its own "Miss Northside AFJROTC", conducted at least two (2) formal military balls/dining-out activities (annually) and other programs purposed to build character, instill citizenship, highlight honorable achievement, and inculcate perseverance into those participating in the Northside AFJROTC program. As a result of the above, LtCol Mahaffey, accompanied by his Aerospace Science Instructor, embolden the AFJROTC program at NHS earning him enormous respect from faculty and the student body alike. His dedication and hard work were noticed and he was awarded the National AF JROTC Outstanding Instructor 4 times and in 1987 was NSHS Techer of the year.

Most importantly, remnant of his leadership remains alive and well through the success of many students who benefited from his instruction. Many matriculated at the Service Academies, and other universities and institutions; a great percentage of those pursued opportunities to serve their country in one of the Services. Countless of cadets went on to serve as Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers in the various services; one of which recently retired as a General Officer. Lt Col Pat Mahaffey's extra-ordinary leadership reflects great credit upon the United States of America, The U.S. Air Force, Northside High School and himself.

What does Northside High School mean to you?

The following represents the Mahaffey family's impression of Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) Pat Mahaffey's impression of what Northside High School (NHS) meant – posthumously. Written by Brigadier General Jonathan McColumm.

During my tenure, Northside High School (NHS) represented the epitome of outstanding public education coupled with extra-ordinary and competitive extracurricular excellence. With specific reference to the NHS Georgia Unit 62, Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (AFJROTC), the administration enabled freedom of creativity to provide multiple and unique training opportunities for students. Students from all backgrounds absorbed these training and development opportunities with amazing energy. High standards were set and consistently re-set as a result of students' shattering standards and making new ones for follow-on classes. Embracing the virtues of NHS was very obvious and quite honestly, anticipated with increasing velocity. The excitement of watching students succeed was more than an achievement for the AFJROTC program, but was the delight in contributing our part to the success of NHS. The satisfaction I achieved from witnessing students' success at NHS was parallel to the gratifying career I enjoyed in the United States Air Force. Finally, years after instructions, students often return to convey their gratitude for the tools they received at NHS – the warmth felt in receiving that gratitude is synonymous with finding gold at the end of a rainbow. *Northside High all hail!!!*