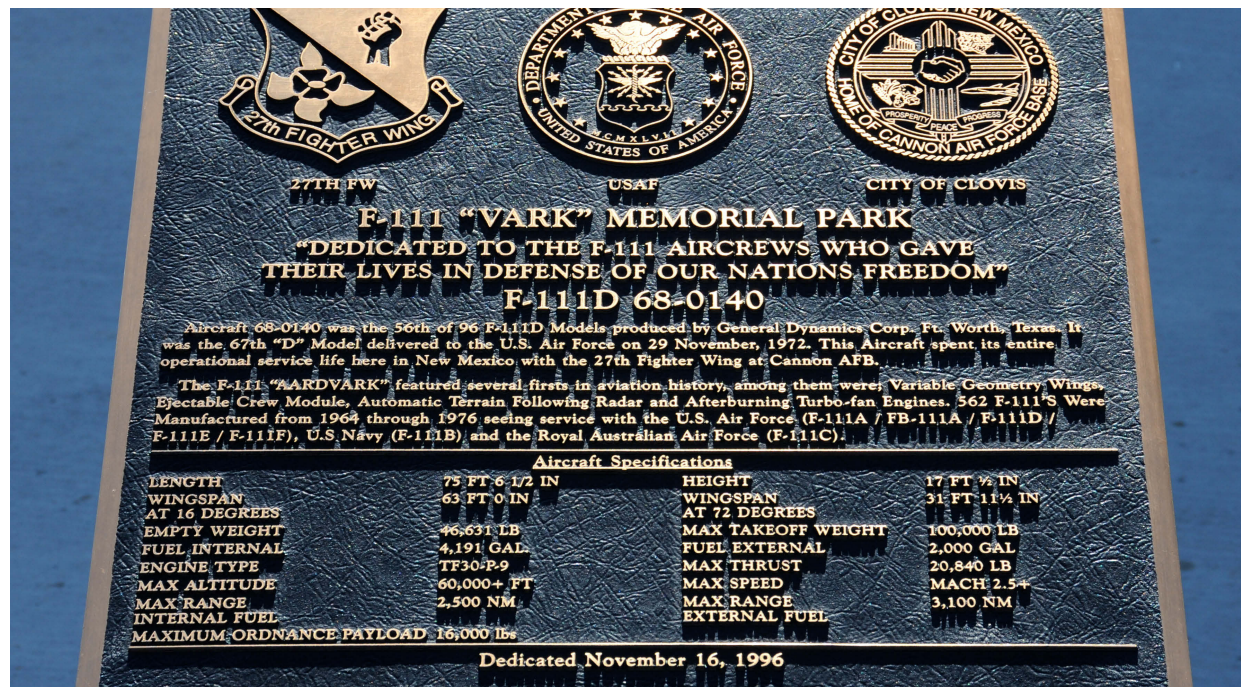


F-111 "Vark" Memorial Park, Clovis, New Mexico
*etched in gold lettering are the names of all 115 aircrew killed in F-111 accidents worldwide;
 same stone as the Vietnam memorial in Washington DC ...*





F-111D - 68-140



Why the odd number ?

- The very first F-111 accident
- Pre-production F-111A , Aircraft no: 63-9774
- Crashed and destroyed 19 January 1967 at Edwards AFB
- Killed was the pilot only, MAJ Herbert F. Brightwell
- WSO Donovan I. McCance lived
- The aircraft landed short of runway due to the wings being accidentally swept in the wrong direction. The pilot, MAJ Brightwell was not significantly injured in the crash landing, went around to unfasten the right seater. Tragically, the pilot was standing in a pool of JP4 which subsequently ignited and incinerated him.

CAPT RILEY D. DOWELL

CAPT EDWARD A. RILEY

CAPT JEREMIAH F. SHEEHAN

SQ LDR JOHN HOLT

FLT LT NOORDINK

CAPT RICHARD L. CARDENAS

CAPT STEVEN G. NELSON

CAPT STEPHEN H. REID

CAPT CARL T. POOLE

FLT LT STEPHEN M. ERSKINE RAAF
CAPT GREGORY S. ANGELL USAF

MAJ FERNANDO L. RIBAS-DOMINICCI
CAPT PAUL F. LORENCE

FLT LT MARK FALLON RAAF
FLT OFF WILLIAM PIKE RAAF

CAPT THOMAS F. "CHIP" STEM
CAPT PHILIP D. "PHIL" BALDWIN

CAPT ROBERT A. MEYER JR.
CAPT FREDERICK A. GERHART

CAPT GLENN E. TROSTER
CAPT MICHAEL A. BARRITT

CAPT JERRY C. LINDH

MAJ D MICHAEL MCGUIRE

FLT LT JEREMY MCNESS RAAF

FLT LT MARK CAIRNS-COWAN RAAF

CAPT RANDOLPH P. GASPARD

MAJ FRANK B. SLUSHER

FLT LT ANTHONY "SHORTY" SHORT RAAF

SQN LDR STEPHEN "NIGE" HOBBS RAAF

Shorty & Nige were the last names inscribed; thankfully there were no more F-111 fatal accidents as there was no room left on the Vark wall !!



Note from WGCdr Mike Smith: In 1999 I was posted to the Embassy in Washington DC with Ray Perry as the Air Attaché when we found out about the F-111G crash in Malaysia. Mr. Steve Hyre, aka “Doc Servo” www.f-111.net, took it upon himself to pay for Shorty & Nige’s names to be inscribed on the wall at his expense so we thought the least we could do was to pay him back; Embassy ended up funding the refurbishment of the entire wall’s etchings and conducting a wreath-laying ceremony with the local Mayor and dignitaries from Canon AFB nearby ...



Note from GPCAPT Mike Smith: I made another brief visit to the Vark Memorial in Jan 2010; on the way back from my tour in the JSF Program Office to pay my respects to some old pig mates, the wall's still in good shape but the gold lettering has faded since 1999 ...