



Ted Brown

February 12, 1931 - August 10, 2017

Theodore Bartholomew Brown was born in Los Angeles, California, on February 12, 1931 to Christine and Prentiss Brown, and was raised by his parents, as well as his stepmother Laura Brown. Ted's siblings include Evelyn January, Charles Brown, Esther Brown, Wayne Ballou, Arthur Ballou, Donna Davis, Cheryl Saunders, and Sylvia Felder.

His education included graduating from Manual Arts High School, Pasadena City College, and ArtCenter College of Design in Los Angeles, from where he ultimately carved out his career as a fine artist and graphic designer in the aerospace industry.

From 1951 to 1953 Ted honorably served in the United States Air Force, doing tours in Japan.

Through Trinity Baptist, the church in which he was raised, where he led the Teenage Youth Ministry, and sang in the Gospel Chorus, he met and married Martha Shepard Palmer in 1957. And in 1983, married Afsaneh Tabatabai, with whom he had a long and loving marriage until his passing. Ted has five children between the two marriages: Pamela Victoria, Angela Carole, Jonathan Michael, Andrew Christopher, and Arman Jason; and one grandchild, Chippewa Thomas.

In 1962 he began work as a graphic artist for McDonnell Douglas. His entire career was in the aerospace industry, working for McDonnell Douglas, Rockwell Industries, and Boeing, altogether. One of his last appointments in his long career was his contract with NASA, through Boeing, to work on the Space Shuttle Program, painting the iconic logos and insignia on the Atlantis and Endeavor orbiters.



Ted and assistants sitting on the wing of the Atlantis

Highlights of his prolific career, in addition to working on the Space Shuttles, include commissioned portraits, most especially: A portrait of President Bill Clinton, commissioned by Boeing, illustrating the President's commitment to the space program; Ted's iconic portrait of Martin Luther King Jr., painted in 1972, and which hung on living room walls and civic buildings across America a few

decades ago; and a well-loved and popularly visited mural entitled *Space Products*, painted in 1980 by a Rockwell International team headed by Ted as lead artist. The mural was unveiled to the public at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in December 1980. It was later moved to the Launch Control Center (LCC), where it remains a popular attraction today. A larger version was once on the wall of the Design Engineering Implementation (DEI) room at Rockwell's Space Shuttle plant in Downey, California. The LCC mural is the only remaining version.



Ted in front of *Space Products* in 1980



Space Products at Kennedy Space Center today

After an illustrious career, Ted retired from the aerospace industry in 2002.

In addition to his work in aerospace, Ted was also a fine artist of portraiture, abstracts, and experiments. An intensely private and humble man, he was never especially interested in exhibiting or selling his fine art (the one exception being the King portrait, where he made available a limited reproduction for the public in the 1970's). Most of his originals remain in his home, or have been gifted to family and friends.



After Ted's retirement, he enjoyed time with his family, loved hiking in the Sequoias, and got much joy from taking photographs and playing around with design on Photoshop. He threw great parties, and spent much time with good friends, who knew him as the epitome of class, gentility, kindness, and humor.

Ted Brown passed away peacefully at the age of 86, surrounded by his family, on Thursday, August 10, 2017. He leaves to mourn his passing: His wife Afi; five children, Pam, Angie, Mike, Andrew and Arman; one granddaughter Chippewa; sisters Esther and Donna, brothers Wayne and Arthur; brothers-in-law Abe and Sean, and mother-in-law Parvin; as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, and the art and aerospace community at large.



Should you wish to offer condolences,
you may send condolences to:
The Brown Family
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