



**Kathleen Clair (Swank) Durback**  
**Airman 1/C U.S. Air Force**  
**11 October 1954 – 10 October 1957**

Kathleen “Kathy” Swank was born on 23 December 1935, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Her mother was **Esther Isabela Swank** (26 May 1916 – 18 October 2004), and her stepfather was **Richard Elmer Kern** (21 August 1916 – 1 July 1995). Kathy grew up in Lower Macungie Township where she attended grades 1–7 at the two-room schoolhouse in East Texas, Pennsylvania. When she moved to Macungie, Pennsylvania, she attended 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Macungie School. After that she attended Jefferson High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, from which she graduated in June 1953. Kathy then went to work as a Clerk for John Hancock Insurance Company at its office in Allentown for four months prior to enlisting in the Air Force. She was inducted as a Basic Airman on 11 October 1954, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for a term of three years. Kathy was then sent to Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), San Antonio, Texas, for basic training. In December 1954, she was transferred to Scott AFB near Belleville, Illinois, for technical training as a Personnel Specialist. The following April, she reported to Manhattan Beach AFB in Brooklyn, New York, where she was assigned to the 2267<sup>th</sup> Personnel Processing Squadron. While there, Kathy was responsible for preparing DD Forms 214 for personnel who were returning from overseas for discharge. She was promoted to Airman 1/C on 1 September 1956, and remained assigned to the squadron until she was discharged on 10 October 1957. After returning home, Kathy resumed working as a Clerk for John Hancock in Allentown until transferring to its office in San Diego, California, where she worked as an Assistant Manager. In 1962, she returned to live in Emmaus, where she married **Thaddeus Gerald Durback** (born 11 June 1937) on 24 November 1962, at St. Ann’s Church. She and Thaddeus then lived in Emmaus until 1967, when they moved to Macungie. They raised two daughters, **Kelly Ann** and **Vicki Marie**. Kathy returned to the work force in 1973 as Comptroller-Bookkeeper at Krause Honda in Emmaus, and later at Lehigh Valley Honda in Allentown. She retired in 1990. She and Thaddeus made Macungie their permanent home. Thaddeus served in the Navy from 1955 to 1959, and Kathy’s brother, **Ronald Allen Swank**, served in the Air Force from 1957 to 1977, which included service in Vietnam.

30 October 2014