



HONORING THE LEGACY OF
LTC JOHN F MOODY

VETERAN. AVIATOR. AUTHOR.

BOOK BY ERIC CHALMERS POSTON

Honoring the Legacy of Lieutenant Colonel John Fleetwood Moody

Veteran, Aviator, Author

By Eric Chalmers Poston

Memorial Biography

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Honoring the Legacy of Lieutenant Colonel John Fleetwood Moody: Veteran, Aviator, Author

By Eric Chalmers Poston

This memorial biography was written for historical and family-preservation purposes and is made available as a free publication. It is based on publicly accessible materials, including obituary notices, alumni memorial records, aviation memorial listings, and commercial bibliographic metadata, along with family historical materials.

The author has aimed to present information accurately and to distinguish between what sources explicitly state and what is offered as general historical context. This work is not an official military record.

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Introduction

Lieutenant Colonel John Fleetwood Moody belonged to a generation shaped by war, duty, and postwar civic life. Born in South Carolina in 1933, he built a life that combined military service, academic achievement, authorship, and deep community ties.

Public obituary and memorial materials report that he was born in Lake City, South Carolina; graduated from The Citadel; earned graduate degrees from the University of South Carolina and Francis Marion University; retired as a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army; served in Korea and completed two tours in Vietnam; and received decorations that include two Bronze Stars and fifteen Air Medals. Commercial book listings attribute to him the novel *The Black Bishop*, published in 2001.

For those who knew him personally, these facts describe only the outline. This memorial is offered to preserve the story in a readable form that respects the limits of the public record while honoring a life of discipline, service, and accomplishment.

Origins in South Carolina

John Fleetwood Moody was born on March 10, 1933, in Lake City, South Carolina. Obituary materials identify his parents as Walter Scott Moody and Lela Covington Moody.

South Carolina remained the geographic frame of his life in the public record. Later notices place him in Salters, South Carolina, and report that he was interred in Lake City. In that sense, his story returns to its beginnings.

Education and Formation

Public memorial records identify John Fleetwood Moody as a graduate of The Citadel and associate him with the Class of 1955. The Citadel's culture of structured leadership and endurance formed many officers of his era, and it appears in Moody's record as an early bridge between local roots and national service.

Obituary and alumni materials also report that he earned master's degrees from the University of South Carolina and Francis Marion University. These educational milestones suggest intellectual seriousness that continued beyond initial training and early career demands.

Army Aviation and Military Service

Obituary materials report that John Fleetwood Moody retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and served as both a helicopter pilot and a fixed-wing pilot. They also report that he served in Korea and completed two tours in Vietnam.

In historical context, those conflicts span a period of major development in Army aviation, particularly in the Vietnam era where aviation became central to mobility and tactical response. That context helps frame the kind of professional demands placed on aviators of the time, while the specific service claims here are limited to what the identified sources state.

An online memorial-style entry maintained by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association lists "MOODY JOHN F" and associates him with Army helicopter aviation. The entry uses cautious wording and refers to him as a "potential VHPA member," so it should be treated as a memorial reference rather than definitive proof of membership status.

Decorations, Skill, and Discipline

Obituary materials report that John Fleetwood Moody received two Bronze Stars and fifteen Air Medals in connection with his service. These reported awards suggest repeated

performance in demanding operational conditions.

The same obituary materials also report that he held a third-degree black belt in karate. In a memorial portrait, that detail fits a broader theme reflected across the record: discipline pursued beyond the minimum and carried into multiple parts of life.

The Author of *The Black Bishop*

Commercial bibliographic metadata attributes to John Moody the novel *The Black Bishop*, linked to ISBN 1588985334 / 9781588985330 and commonly listed as a 2001 paperback. Listings typically describe the story as following two Southern friends, one white and one Black, across slavery and the Civil War period and beyond.

Metadata reliably supports a limited set of points: the work exists, it circulated commercially, it is attributed to him in catalog listings, and it is described with consistent themes across sources. This memorial does not attempt to infer more than those sources can support. Even so, the fact of authorship matters. It indicates a post-service life that included sustained reflection and the attempt to shape history into narrative.

Family, Faith, and Community

Obituary materials portray John Fleetwood Moody not only as an officer and aviator but also as a man rooted in family and community. They associate him with Union Presbyterian Church and Friends of the Library and report that his memorial service was held at Union Presbyterian Church, with funeral arrangements handled by Williamsburg Funeral Home.

The obituary record also identifies close family survivors, including his daughter Maxine Moody Poston and grandchildren Eric Chalmers Poston and Lane Strom Poston.

Some public notices contain inconsistent spouse information. Because the public record varies on that point, this memorial does not attempt to resolve it without certified documentation.

Conclusion

The publicly available record portrays Lieutenant Colonel John Fleetwood Moody as a South Carolinian who pursued rigorous education, served as an Army aviator across two major conflicts, earned reported decorations for that service, maintained demanding standards of personal discipline, and later became a published author.

This memorial does not attempt mythmaking. It aims to preserve what the available sources reasonably support, to be clear where the record is incomplete, and to present a coherent narrative of service, accomplishment, and community life.

Sources and Methodology

This memorial relies primarily on publicly accessible obituary and alumni materials for core biographical facts, supplemented by aviation memorial listings and commercial bibliographic metadata.

Where the public record is silent, incomplete, or inconsistent, this memorial does not speculate.

Source URLs (as provided)

Greenville News / Legacy obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/greenvilleonline/name/john-moody-obituary?id=48981604>

Citadel Alumni memorial page:

<https://citadelalumni.org/john-f-moody-55/>

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association memorial page:

<https://www.vhpa.org/DAT/datM/G19738.HTM>

The Black Bishop listing:

<https://us.amazon.com/Black-Bishop-John-Moody/dp/1588985334>

National Archives military service-record request guidance:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180>

NARA OMPF access guidance:

<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/ompf-access-public>

Bronze Star Medal reference:

[https://tioh.army.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?](https://tioh.army.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?CategoryId=3&HeraldryId=15252&grp=4&menu=Decorations+and+Medals&p=0&ps=24)

[CategoryId=3&HeraldryId=15252&grp=4&menu=Decorations+and+Medals&p=0&ps=24](https://tioh.army.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?CategoryId=3&HeraldryId=15252&grp=4&menu=Decorations+and+Medals&p=0&ps=24)

Air Medal reference:

[https://tioh.army.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?](https://tioh.army.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?CategoryId=3&HeraldryId=15256&grp=4&menu=Decorations+and+Medals&p=0&ps=24)

[CategoryId=3&HeraldryId=15256&grp=4&menu=Decorations+and+Medals&p=0&ps=24](https://tioh.army.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?CategoryId=3&HeraldryId=15256&grp=4&menu=Decorations+and+Medals&p=0&ps=24)