

28Aug72 USAF Ace VN

[Air Force Cross Society](#)

Happy Birthday to Brigadier General R. Stephen Ritchie, United States Air Force, born this day in 1942. Then Captain Ritchie became the only Air Force pilot ace of the Vietnam War when he shot down his 5th enemy fighter on August 28, 1972. A 1964 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Ritchie left active duty in 1974, and retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Brig Gen in 1999. For his heroism in combat, he was awarded the Air Force Cross, 4 Silver Stars, 10 Distinguished Flying Crosses (8 of them for Valor), and 25 Air Medals:

<http://www.veterantributes.org/TributeDetail.php...>

