



Dean Montgomery Wilkins

December 12, 1943 - February 17, 2014

Dean M. Wilkins, 70, of Sharpsburg, GA passed away Monday, February 17, 2014 at Doctors Hospice in Riverdale after battling cancer for almost a year. Dean was born December 12, 1943 in Ilion, NY to the late Spencer Albert Wilkins & Helen Comstock Wilkins. His family moved to the Ithaca, NY area in 1944 where Dean and his brother Spencer attended Ithaca High School. Dean graduated from Spartan University of Aviation in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1964 with a diploma for airline jet mechanic and overhead technician. After graduation he worked for Central Airline in Kansas City, MO. In 1966 he married Barbara Everhart, shortly after they moved to Long Island, NY where their two sons were born. During his career he worked for many flight based operations. He got his pilot's license in 1972 prior to moving to Jacksonville, FL where he worked for Charter Oil as a mechanic/co-pilot later acquiring a captain's position before leaving to go to Freeport McMoran in New Orleans from 1987 to 1999. At Freeport McMoran he was Pilot-in-Command/Assistant Director of Aviation of a worldwide operation/Special Projects. In 1999 he moved to Seattle, WA to work for Orca Bay Aviations as a Chief Pilot transporting sports teams through 2000. From 2000 to 2011 Dean fulfilled a lifetime dream and got a job with Boeing as a flight instructor/special projects. He retired in 2012 but went back to work part-time with ATI as a contract flight instructor. During his career he accumulated 10 plus airplane ratings with 13,000 plus total flight hours of U.S. and international travel. Dean was a member of Grace Baptist Church of Sharpsburg for the last 13 years. He is survived by his wife of 48

years, Barbara; sons, Dean M. Wilkins of San Antonio, TX, Daryl Stuart Wilkins & wife Katie of Keystone Heights, FL; two grandchildren, Nicholas & Ashlee Wilkins of Royce City, TX; brother, Spencer Wilkins & wife Peggy of Greenville, TX; cousin, Elaine LaHue of Weirsdale, FL; many nieces and nephews. Dean loved his God, family, and extended family of beloved friends and co-workers. The family invites Dean's family and beloved friends to a memorial service Saturday, June 28, 2014 at 2:00 o'clock at Trumbulls Corners Community Church, 628 Trumbulls Corners Rd. Newfield, N.Y. 14867 with Pastor Dale Ford officiating. The family will receive friends at the church beginning at 1:15.

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 1:15 PM (ET)

Grace Baptist Church
825 Ebenezer Church Road
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
(770) 304-8846
<http://gbcsharpsburg.com>

Service

FEB 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

Grace Baptist Church
825 Ebenezer Church Road
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
(770) 304-8846
<http://gbcsharpsburg.com>

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Dean and I got to know each other through Boeing when he was an instructor there. He was amazing. I recall times when we would go to lunch together and "reinvent the company" talking about all the things we would do differently with training and simulators if we were "king for a day." Dean was an encyclopedia of knowledge when it came to airplanes and training, a top notch instructor. I loved working with him. I will miss having him swing by to talk for a few minutes, always brightening my day, even when he was delivering bad news about a sim problem I might be responsible for fixing, or anything else. The guy was non-stop positive, smiling with that unique and unforgettable Dean Wilkins smile, laughing about the silliest stuff and conspiring with me (and I'm sure quite a number of others) to take out (get fired somehow) all the bad managers and improve everyone else's lot, especially our fellow instructors. He was an incredible person, and I'm sure he is enjoying a HUGE heavenly reward for all the good he did while he was walking on this earth with us. Blue skies forever, Dean.

Jason Bialek - March 21, 2014 at 10:45 PM

FS

“ Dean and I were neighboring friends in those early high school years of '57-61. Our perimeter was quite small at that time but we nevertheless, explored, tested our limits, got in some trouble and had some great adventures together. We learned to drive on snow-packed roads with matching Ford tractors. Mine was slightly faster. He could climb a bit higher. What I remember most about Dean was, not only how interested and involved he was with so many other activities but how incredibly well liked and respected he was at such an early age. We spent an incredible amount of time together but Dean still found time to work with the Fire department, Sheriffs, and Emergency Corps and still had time to build jalopy's and learn to SCUBA dive. He was quite a guy, even back then. I always thought we would have one more fishing adventure out here in Montana and maybe he'd teach me to fly. I have missed him all week and will continue to do so for quite some time. I'm sure I speak for many of our old neighborhood group. I still can't believe he's gone from us. My condolences, Barb. I feel your loss and I am so thankful for the lasting memories.

Fred Schnitzer - March 05, 2014 at 10:00 AM

BK

“ Thanks for your kind friendship.

Bill Kelly - February 25, 2014 at 09:16 PM

AD

“ Barbara and family, We are sad for y'all, but so happy for Dean to be in Heaven with our Lord. Still so many fond memories of your time here in Switzerland and attending SCC :) We have always missed y'all and pray for you in this time. Please give our love to everyone. Adrienne and Donnie Davis

Adrienne Davis - February 22, 2014 at 01:36 PM

DS

“*Deano!, You were not cleared to depart the fix! We had plans to get together again here in Florida and I think, that I still owe you a drink, or two or... I met Dean just after he joined FlightSafetyBoeing. My first thought was, we hired Uncle Fester? (no offense here I hope but that was my impression). Little did I know that we had hired a remarkable, professional and such a fun loving guy. Dean was one of my best friends! He was always so full of life, and himself. He loved teaching and telling us how things were and how they could be better. What a joy to be around. Whether we were in Seattle, Long Beach, Miami, Gatwick or Palma, Dean always made life better for whoever he was with. Thanks so much Deano. I have so many memories of Dean and stories to tell, I could go on for hours. Dean had so much to share with all of us and especially all of his students. He was a wonderful teacher. Barbara and family, I know that you have suffered a great loss. I would like to thank you for sharing your husband, best friend, father, brother, grandfather, uncle... with me and the entire aviation community. He made all of our lives better and will be missed by more than you can ever imagine. God bless your family. Dave Schaefer*

Dave Schaefer - February 20, 2014 at 09:24 PM

WS

“*Barbara, Dean and Daryl, Our hearts are heavy with the passing of our precious Dean. He was such a great friend to us and will be sorely missed. Our prayers are with you as you go through the journey of grief. Please know we are right here should you need anything. Much love, Wes and Bev*

Wes and Bev Slough - February 20, 2014 at 12:22 PM

PR

“ Deano was a amazing person who taught me a lot about avation and life,I miss him already.My heartfelt condolence for Barb and his family.

Pat Rowan - February 20, 2014 at 11:39 AM

MH

“ I had the privilege of knowing Deano and working with him for the past 30 years. He was always cheerful and full of life, ready to take on the next challenge. Your spirit will remain as a wonderful memory for all of us who knew you. Barbars, all of us are praying for you during this difficult time.

Mary Kay Holzmann - February 19, 2014 at 09:26 PM

DH

“ I had the privilege to work with Dean off-and-on over the past decade - sharing ideas, borrowing notes on the airplane systems we taught, and telling LOTS of stories. Every time Dean would come around to the Flight Standards office, he had a great big grin on his face - hiding under that moustache - and before he even said a word you just knew that this was really going to be good! Dean had seen and done it all within the flying community. He traveled the world for The Boeing Company and became a true ambassador for the quality of the products he supported. His heartfelt commitment to training pilots was known and appreciated by all who knew him. The flight instructor community will be significantly less interesting with his departure.

David Hunter - February 19, 2014 at 04:19 PM

BS

“ Just another pilot who will miss dean. I was at Boeing before he left and greatly enjoyed his friendship. We had lunch in MIA about 2 years ago. He was his old self- full of life and everything else. He will be missed. Wings level, blue side up Dean.

Bill Simmons - February 19, 2014 at 03:30 PM

BN

“ Mrs. Barbara, you and your family are in our prayers. It was an honor knowing and serving the Lord with you and Bro. Dean for so many years at Range Road Baptist Church in Hammond, LA.

Becky Nuccio - February 19, 2014 at 03:17 PM

AJ

“ I always referred to Dean as a "Mechanics Captain". I am proud to have worked with him in the early NY years and then meeting again in the 757 years. I will miss you Dean.

Allan Jones - February 19, 2014 at 02:34 PM

RA

“ Dean Happy Trails my friend. May you Rest in Peace Randy Avery Captain, ATI

Randy Avery - February 19, 2014 at 08:28 AM

BR

“ On behalf of Dr. Charles Brownlow and the staff of Better Health Clinical Research and Ga Pain and Spine Care, we send our deepest sympathies to the family of Dean Wilkins. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you during this difficult time. Mr. Wilkins was a pleasure to know.

Better Health Clinical Research - February 19, 2014 at 08:00 AM

LI

“ Deano was the most exceptional pilot that ever graced the flight deck of every plane he flew... He was indeed a **VERY SPECIAL PERSON** and will be missed by all that knew him... I personally spent hours an hours with Deano and never saw him loose his cool in the worst weather mother nature could throw our way... So long my friend and may the heavenly angels bless and comfort your family... Lee H. Hilton III Flight Engineer (Retired) :>/

Lee H. Hilton III - February 18, 2014 at 08:52 PM

RH

“ My sincere condolences to the family of Dean Wilkins. Although I never got to meet Dean face-to-face I enjoyed a working relationship with him for the past 3 years through Air Transport International where I served as Training Coordinator at the Little Rock headquarters. After communicating with Dean through email and phone, you didn't have to meet him to know what a great person...and what a character.....he was! He will be greatly missed.

Robin Howard - February 18, 2014 at 06:41 PM

EG

“ It has been a privilege and an honor to have known and had the opportunity to fly with and work alongside Dean for so many years. I shall forever miss his presence, his friendship, his vision, his wisdom. He gave of himself to so many others. Many have been richly blessed by Dean, their lives have been touched in special ways, as he perpetually gave so much of himself, and all he encountered will carry a small part of Dean with them. My prayers and love go out to his family, especially to his loving wife Barbara.

Ed Gonzales - February 18, 2014 at 02:35 PM