



Duane Eugene Romey

November 8, 1967 - September 9, 2021

Newnan, Georgia - Captain Duane Eugene Romey, 53, of Newnan and formerly of Bourbonnais, Illinois, went to be with his Lord and Savior at 1:39 p.m. EDT Thursday, September 9, 2021 at Piedmont Newnan Hospital. Duane was born November 8, 1967 in Kankakee, Illinois and grew up in Bourbonnais, Illinois. He was the beloved son of Byron and Norma (Wickham) Romey of Clearwater, Florida.

He married Shelley Randolph on May 4, 2002 in Grapevine, Texas. She survives.

Other survivors include his three children: Chase Wickham, Kendall Paige, and Duncan Neel Romey, all at home; his sister: Donna (James) Pardew of Indianapolis, Indiana; father/mother-in-law: Corky and Dorothy (Neel) Randolph of Fort Myers, Florida; sister-in-law's: Stephanie Saum of Lehigh Acres, Florida, Danyne Bharj (Surj) of Oolteweh, Tennessee; brother-in-law's: Misha Randolph (Amy) of Naples, Florida, Jeremy Randolph (Stephanie) of Fort Meyers, Florida; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Duane was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents: Clinton and Minerva Wickham and paternal grandparents: E. Eugene and Thelma Romey; brother-in-law: Vince Saum.

Duane was a 1986 graduate of Bradley Bourbonnais High School. In 1990 he graduated from Olivet Nazarene University with a Bachelor's degree in History/Political Science, and in 1995 completed his Master of Science in Management at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma.

Duane's early interest in aviation lead him to start flying at 16 while in high school.

Duane's flying career ignited his passion for instruction which became a life-long pursuit. After numerous jobs building experience in his flying career, Duane was hired at Delta in late 2001. During the next 5 years, while waiting to be recalled following the 9/11 furloughs, Duane and his wife Shelley, moved to Australia in September 2005 where he worked for Aero Rescue, training their crews in the special mission Dornier 328. They returned to the United States and moved to Newnan, Georgia in February 2008. Duane attained the rank of Captain flying the Airbus A320.

Duane attended the Calvary Chapel Newnan Church. His community activities were extensive, though he was most proud of his volunteer work introducing many future pilots to aviation through the EAA Young Eagles program and his involvement in the Civil Air Patrol.

Duane had many hobbies; playing tennis, flying, traveling with his family, listening to country music, hymns, and bad '80s music.

Duane touched many lives and will be deeply missed by all that knew him.

An open air Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 a.m. EDT Saturday, September 18, 2021 in Duane's hangar at the Two Rocks Airport in Newnan, Georgia. Officiating: Dr. Joel Dover and Rev. Carl Romey. The family request in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Duane Romey Young Aviator Scholarship. Link: <https://gofund.me/4f73b417>

Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

SEP **18**. 11:00 AM.

Duane's hangar

Tribute Wall

RS

“ I recall visiting Byron and Norma in their apartment off campus at Olivet Nazarene University. I think it was Duane I saw sitting in a high chair throwing food and applying it to his face. Sorry Byron and Norma—for losing Duane soon. May God give you comfort.
Roy Stults

Roy Stults - December 21, 2021 at 03:31 PM

JF

“ My sincerest thoughts, condolences, and prayers with Duane’s family. I echo Becky’s thoughts, as I too was so very blessed to share wonderful times with Duane in high school and was truly blessed with his friendship.



My memories of the best of times with Duane include ... a little tennis, a few ski trips to Cascade Mountain in Wisconsin, sharing the cockpit with Duane as he was logging flight hours, and traveling with Duane to Oshkosh, Wisconsin for an EAA Fly In.

No matter the activity or just hanging out, Duane’s genuine friendship and grace, along with his infectious smile and good nature, made for the best of times. I credit Duane with getting me “addicted” to alpine / downhill skiing. Thank you, Duane! Although I never caught the aviation bug, which Duane so enjoyed, we shared time together flying over the Kankakee River valley together while he was getting his flight hours in. I remember doing several “touch and goes” at the Kankakee airport and being amazed at Duane’s command of the aircraft. Duane even allowed me to take the controls for a brief time on one of our flights - coaching me to read and trust the gauges. I remember Duane even flying over my parents property (where I grew up) near the Bourbonnais Sportsman’s Club and being amazed at how it all looked from the air. Keeping with Duane’s love for everything aviation, we traveled to Oshkosh, Wisconsin one time for an EAA Fly In - seeing the “new at the time” Harrier fighter jet with all the vertical take-off maneuvers demonstrated. We tent camped while attending the multi-day show. Just for the record... “I don’t tent camp!”, but for a friend like Duane, I made an exception. :-)

I love the picture of Duane above - looking so proud and happy, standing there in his uniform on what appears to be a tarmac at an airport with beautiful mountains in the background. This so reminds me of a very special little airport in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. I know

Delta serves this airport and hope Duane had the opportunity to fly in and out of there, experiencing the magnificent and majestic Teton Mountains with each and every flight.

Although this is just a brief remembrance of our time together, I hope this tells a bit of a story maybe not known by all, but nevertheless, I'm sure we share the common thread of amazing and cherished times - times blessed by Duane and his amazing and life-enriching spirit. We are all the better having Duane touch each and every one of us!

For Duane's family and friends from Bourbonnais, and the friends and family I never got to know... we all share something very special. All my love, thoughts, and prayers are with you all!

Jim Floyd

James R. Floyd - September 19, 2021 at 09:51 PM

LG

“ My mind is drawn to many fond associations with my friend Duane. He and I became good friends when he was studying at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma. He made so many friends through his involvement in the classrooms of his MSM program, through his flight instruction in the aviation program of SNU, and in his participation in the orchestra at the Bethany First Church of the Nazarene. Because of a shared interest in flying, we made numerous trips together and loved the thrill of flight and adventure to different places primarily in the southwest. He was such a fun person to be around, frequently with an infectious laugh and enjoyment of life. He was greatly loved by his students in the flight program and indeed by the many lives he touched during his time in Oklahoma

It was a wonderful thing to observe his courtship and ultimate marriage to Shelley Randolph. This union seemed to complete Duane as he assumed roles of husband and father of three beautiful children. His communications over the last few years were full of photos and descriptions of times of family trips, building their home, and the volunteer service he invested in Civil Air Patrol and other worthwhile endeavors. His life in his early fifties seemed full and happy, even with the stresses of job and recently of Covid.

My last communication with him was when he was in the hospital prior to being placed on the ventilator. I did not think he would not recover and return to his prior roles as professional pilot and family leader. I'm still heartbroken by having lost a friend of nearly 30 years and the thought of Shelley and the children going ahead with life absent Duane. I pray for his family many times daily and trust a loving God will sustain and shelter them as they navigate future days with the loss of husband and father.

Loren Gresham - September 17, 2021 at 04:34 AM

BW

“ My thoughts and prayers remain with Duane's wife, kids, parents, and loved ones. I had the honor of calling Duane a friend since our high school days, and was blessed to reconnect with him at our reunion five years ago. He was a kind, decent, Christian man with a heart for God and his family. I have yet to run across anyone who didn't think the world of him. This world will sorely miss such a good soul.

Becky Wilder - September 16, 2021 at 03:31 PM

CM

“ Shelley and children, Norma and Byron, and Romey family, we are so deeply sorry for your great loss. While we did not know Duane personally, we heard much about him from his wonderful parents, Norma and Byron, our friends of decades. They spoke proudly and lovingly of their son and his family. We pray God will watch over all of you as you grieve for Duane, giving you strength to face your many tomorrows. May He bless each of you at this very sad time in your lives.
In His Name,
Cheryl and Mike McClain

Cheryl & Mike McClain - September 14, 2021 at 05:59 PM



“ Shelley, I am so sorry for your loss. Even though I didn't know Duane, I do know from the pictures that you shared through facebook, you both loved each other very much. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your children and family.

Brenda Handy

Brenda Handy - September 14, 2021 at 03:30 PM



BH

“ Sincere condolences and prayers for the entire family. The Romey family will always be part of our "life story"! Norma Romey was our son's caregiver prior to his beginning school. Many cherished memories include the Romey family! May you feel the warm arms of the Lord's embrace as you move ahead.
Perhaps Duane and Gene have already met in Heaven!!

Barbra Hartness - September 14, 2021 at 03:28 PM

JS

Dear Byron and Norma,

Our hearts are deeply saddened by the untimely passing of your wonderful son, Duane. Just reading his lifeline shows what a beautiful person he was. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Shelly, and family. We pray for the healing of your hearts!

Mike and Julie Shalley

Julie Shalley - September 15, 2021 at 01:29 PM

MS

Norma and Byron,

We just heard of your son's passing. There is nothing we can say that will diminish the pain you both are experiencing, but you can count on our prayers that God will grace you with comfort and healing during this time of recovery.

Maynard and Marilyn Strawser

Maynard, Marilyn Strawser - November 17, 2021 at 08:41 PM