



James William "Bill" Murphree

May 17, 1930 - November 28, 2009

James William "Bill" Murphree, Eastern Airlines, (Ret. Captain) died Saturday, November 28, 2009 at Newnan Hospital of Parkinson's disease. He was seventy-nine years old. He was born May 17, 1930 in Montgomery, Alabama. He is preceded in death by his parents: Francis Sherry Murphree and Eulala Mae Blackmon Murphree; brother, Francis Sherry Murphree Jr. and sister, Katherine Murphree Marshall.

Captain Murphree began his career as a crop dusting pilot in Alabama after serving in the Alabama National Guard. He later became a flight instructor at Auburn University. In 1957 he became a pilot for Eastern Airlines and was based in Atlanta for the duration of his career, retiring in 1989 as a Senior Captain flying the Airbus A-300 aircraft.

He married Gloria Donnelly Murphree on January 9, 1954 in Montgomery, Alabama. They were married for fifty six years and had two daughters, Lynn Murphree Finney and Susan Murphree Ebersbach. The Murphrees moved from Atlanta to Newnan, Georgia in 1973 and have continually remained residents of Coweta County.

After retirement he became an ultralight aircraft enthusiast and flew out of his own airstrip at his home in Newnan. Although diagnosed with Parkinson's disease shortly after retirement, Captain Murphree continued to enjoy taking care of his farm in Coweta County and water skiing at his lake home at Lake Martin, Alabama.

Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.Mckoon.com.

Captain Murphree is survived by his widow, Gloria D. Murphree; his daughters, Lynn M. Finney and Susan M. (Randy) Ebersbach; grandchildren, Gloria-Ruth Finney, John Randall Ebersbach, and Richard Murphree Ebersbach. He is also survived by nephews, Otis Douglas Marshall III (Earlena), Dr. Donald Marshall and nieces, Kay Marshall Ott, and Sherry Elizabeth Murphree.

Visitation will be held at McKoon Funeral Home, Newnan, Georgia on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 1:00 PM, followed by graveside services at 3:00 PM at Oak Hill Cemetery, Newnan, Georgia. Dr. Joel Richardson will officiate.

Mckoon Funeral Home, (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-3744

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 30. 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

NOV 30. 3:00 PM (ET)

Graveside Oak Hill Cemetery
96 Jefferson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall

DM

“ I always enjoyed talking and laughing with Mr Murphree. He will be missed.

Dr Steven Marcet - December 08, 2009 at 09:50 AM

CP

“ Lynn, Please know that my thoughts and love are with you now. My Daddy was saddened and sends his love to you and your dear sweet Mother. Your Daddy is young again and flying in the clouds of heavenly peace. Connie Prescott

connie Prescott - December 03, 2009 at 02:23 AM

EL

“ I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Elizabeth Sosby Ledbetter

Elizabeth Sosby Ledbetter - December 02, 2009 at 02:24 PM

GG

“ Gloria and family, Very sorry to hear about Bill. Many fond memories. It was he that got us interested in the Newnan area and The Heritage School. I enjoyed flying with him and I hope that he enjoyed flying with me. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Gil Gilbert

Gil Gilbert - November 29, 2009 at 09:00 PM

R(

“ I am in shock. another old pilot died, Jimmy Donovan, and I was looking for his OBIT and came across this. I haven't taken the paper for years so would have missed this. Bill and I went to ground school together for our pilots license and have been friends for over 60 years. Give Gloria our love. Bob Mathews

Robert Mathews (Bob) - November 29, 2009 at 06:59 PM

BH

“ Gloria: Sorry to learn of the passing of Bill. I have many fond memories of all of you visiting your parents next door to us on Amherst Drive in Montgomery. We moved to Fort Deposit in 1995 and we are currently enjoying retirement life. My children, Susan and her family live in Athens Ga and Richard and his family live in Columbus Ga. We will be thinking of you and your family during this time. Bryan Hare

Bryan Hare - November 29, 2009 at 07:48 AM