



Edward Lee Hibbard

December 24, 1939 - August 16, 2023

Edward Lee Hibbard, age 83, of Flowery Branch, GA passed away on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

Ed was born on December 24, 1939 in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. He graduated from Hoxie High School, then from Lyon College, aka Arkansas College, with a Bachelor's Degree. He joined the US Air Force out of college where he had pilot training and later worked for Delta Air Lines as a pilot for 28 years. He continued to attend high school and college reunions as well as a weekly breakfast with a group of retired pilots.

He loved gardening and being outdoors. He traveled and hiked throughout the world but the Grand Canyon was one of his favorite places to go because of so much history and geology in one place. He had a large network of friends who all remember him as being very loyal and giving of himself. He was a great story-teller and loved visiting with family and friends. He touched many people's lives and he will be missed so much.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, Diane Rogers Hibbard; son, Edward Lee Hibbard, Jr; daughter, Pam Hibbard; grandchildren, Kirsten Hibbard and Liam Edward Erwin; sisters, Paulette (Dennis) Bradley, and Brenda (Wayne) Bass; and brothers, Bill (Gladys) Hibbard, and Carl (Brenda) Hibbard. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews who he adored. He was preceded in death by his parents Mildred Robinette Hibbard and Edward Elvin Hibbard.

His family is planning a virtual memorial service.

Tribute Wall

PH

“ 1 file added to the album Misc



Pamela Hibbard - January 09, 2024 at 09:18 AM

JR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jim Roberts - September 11, 2023 at 03:13 PM

CB

“ I remember Ed from college. He was the quiet one whose brain you could almost hear working if you were next to him. A strong individual with a good heart making it an honor to call him friend. Diane, I am so sorry for your loss. I pray God will comfort you and hold you in his arms. My condolences to the family. May God bless and comfort you.

Christopher Barrett

Christopher Barrett - September 10, 2023 at 05:56 PM

RG

“ So sorry to hear about Ed. He was a senior at Arkansas College (Lyon) when I was a freshman. He was one of several student leaders who had a great influence on me. I remember that I was at a reunion when he was there and enjoyed visiting. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Richard Galbraith - September 10, 2023 at 05:48 PM

GM

“ We send our love God Bless-Gene and Janette Mercer

Gene Mercer - September 10, 2023 at 05:48 PM

PH

“ 1 file added to the album Delta



Pam Hibbard - August 24, 2023 at 01:05 PM

JL

I recall fondly the many occasions we at 64E enjoyed only because Ed started our reunion going about 25 years ago. Our compliment is now down from 19 to 7. I find it not sad. Simply, our parting is just part of the game of life. I don't mourn my compatriots simply because I look forward to my turn, I guess. And because of some significant conversations he and I had about 20 years ago that pretty much covered our mutual philosophies.

He told me of his upbringing in Arkansas. He was poor, when an understanding teacher saw potential and made his education and flying career possible. Until the pandemic changed our lives, Ed and I hiked Tallulah Gorge State Park and couple of times and slept out under the stars. I'm thankful for those times and will remember always.

Summarizing, I know that Ed was (is) as good a spirit as any good spirit in this world or beyond. Although the next adventure will, perhaps, send us in different directions, I won't be surprised to see him coming, offering from his pocket one of his used tea bags. That and a thermos of hot water will do us just fine.

John M. Lind 64E

John Lind - September 11, 2023 at 01:16 PM

JN

I was a pilot of really small aircraft, but I could understand his love of flying. I felt very privileged to be invited to the AC reunions because I was at AC for only two years (I had to transfer to ASC in Jonesboro to get a double major in chemistry and physics). I am saddened by his passing. Our class has lost a truly valuable member. John R. Wright, Ph.D., "Ricky" (My wife, Betty agrees that Ed was a very strong, positive personality. We all hate to see the passing of people like that.)

John Ricken Wright (a Batesville Native) - September 11, 2023 at 07:20 PM



I have fond memories of Ed's willingness to handle finances for our annual Pig Pull. He kept meticulous records of who was pre-paid and who needed to pay at check in. Then he provided a sheet for Suzanne & I to use at the check in desk. In 2018, after 25 fun years, we were discussing ending the Pig Pull. I found an email from Ed dated Dec 5, 2018: "On a positive note if someone came up with a suitable, less costly venue for future events I would offer my services as treasurer. I offer this knowing that choosing a younger person for that duty would be more prudent. With a venue that was significantly less costly might the event continue with significantly fewer participants? Who knows?"

See you tomorrow, Ed

I am not a "regular" at the Thursday Pilot Breakfast at Curt's cafeteria, but Ed was, and I will very much miss him! John Earley

John Earley - September 11, 2023 at 10:37 PM



He will always be Mr. Hibbard, or Captain Hibbard, to me, because I met him by working with Pam and becoming good friends with her. He took me under his wing many years ago with a long and sincere conversation that we both remembered well, years later. We worked in the gardens, especially in the woods, contributing what we could, connected, content. I am a better person for him; missing deeply the conversations that waited.

Godspeed, Captain. You have my utmost respect, sir.

Phill Smith

Phill Smith - September 23, 2023 at 08:37 PM

WR

My heart aches knowing that the hearty laugh and curious nature of Ed Hibbard is now relegated to memory. I was fortunate to have my life enriched by this amazing man, whose abiding curiosity knew no bounds.

As a former pilot for Delta Airlines, Ed became fascinated by the landscapes he was flying over between Atlanta and California and determined to see what it all looked like up close. He eventually signed on for a Colorado River trip through the Grand Canyon, with me leading it as a geologist. Oh boy, what fun we had! A friendship ensued, not just with me but others on that trip. Soon, there were other ventures all across the American Southwest. Places with evocative names, Grand Gulch, Escalante, Monument Valley, Canyonlands. Ed and I did numerous trips and I cherish every one of those that he participated in.

I will always remember how genuine Ed was in his friendships. He was thoughtful, respectful, and fair to everyone's point of view. We may have had other trips together in our future. But he is off somewhere else now, learning to be a guide there. At some later time, he will certainly be the expert showing me the ins and outs of wherever he has gone off to explore. I look forward to that happy reunion. God bless Ed Hibbard!

Wayne Ranney - September 24, 2023 at 10:21 AM

PP

I was a classmate of Ed's at Laredo AFB, TX (64-D). Although we graduated at different dates, I recall in 1998, when he made it out to our first 64-D reunion in Las Vegas There are many of us who still claim Ed as a 64-D graduate. We kept in touch for quite some time.

Condolences to the entire Hibbard Family

*Perry Parkhurst
(parkhur1@msu.edu)*

I don't think he would mind my sharing an email he sent to me after the reunion. Cheers to Ed Hibbard. He was a friend to many and sent me an e-mail as follows:

To Laredo Class 64-D and copy to 64-E,

To put things in perspective please be reminded that I started UPT with 64-D. I was later medically grounded for a month. Upon return to flight status I joined and graduated with 64-E. I have been double dipping in attending reunions with both groups so feel a special camaraderie with both.

The first of these reunions was the 64-D gathering in Las Vegas in 1998 organized by Perry. (Thanks Perry!) That was so impressive to me that in 1998 I managed to clone it for 64-E. Each group has had subsequent multiple reunions.

For some time I have harbored an idea of a joint reunion of these two groups. Maybe this is an opportune time.

There is a Laredo 64-E Reunion planned for Dayton/Wright Patterson area in Sept. 22-25, 2015. Laredo 64-D is invited to join in this reunion.

Organizers for this event are Howard and Nancy Hanson. Pasted below is info of an email from them to 64-E dated Oct. 26, 2014.

I have a roster of each group to facilitate communications. These rosters will eventually be mutually shared. If you prefer your info not be shared please advise me.

Howard, to give you a perspective of the total numbers involved this email goes to 28 addressees.

Warmest Regards, Ed Hibbard

Perry Parkhurst - September 29, 2023 at 11:25 AM

JH

I read about Edward's passing in the Times Dispatch, Hoxie news and wondered if it was the Edward Lee that I remembered. It was! When he was in the first grade at the Clear Lake school, near Walnut Ridge, my sister, Liberty Forehand Pulliam was his teacher. It makes me so happy to think that, hopefully she was responsible for giving him a good start in his education to help him become all that is portrayed in these tributes.

And, I knew all of his family, his grandparents, Uncle John and Aunt Marg Russell (who influenced a lot of my childhood), all of his mother's siblings and I was good friends with Virginia (but she was Missouri, then). This brings back so many good memories.

I know his family will miss him, but they can take comfort in knowing that he has finished his course and has kept his faith.

Kind regards, Joyce Forehand Holder

Joyce Forehand Holder - October 04, 2023 at 07:53 PM