

Lyle Sherman Wilkinson

August 30, 1934 – January 12, 2004

Obituary

BROOKSIDE, UT <! > - Lyle Sherman Wilkinson, beloved husband, father, grandpa and friend was taken from this earth while doing that which he loved. He unexpectedly called home from his flight on January 12, 2004 in Iron County, Utah while administering a flight exam to a student.

He was born Aug. 30, 1934 in Grass Valley, CA to Lyle Vernon Wilkinson and Mary Frances Poulson. He married his Sweetheart, Sharon Lynn Smith, on Feb. 14, 1958 in Provo, UT. Their marriage was solemnized in the Manti Temple in November 1989.

Lyle always had a passion for aviation. At age five, his dad bought the kids an airplane ride. From then on, he looked up to the skies whenever he heard an airplane flying over. While in Hawthorne, NV, he joined the Boy Scouts knowing at the end of the year he could go for another ride. After World War II ended, the family moved to Orem, UT where classes in Aviation were offered at Lincoln High School. His first flying lesson was in 1952. Realizing very quickly that money makes the airplane fly, he joined the Army and was a Radar Operator for two years in Japan.

After the Army, he made good use of his GI Bill and learned to fly at Provo Flying Service. His instructor was Lynn Christopherson; he soloed in 1955. He became a flight instructor and learned to fly helicopters while under the employment of Jim and Bob Burr. In 1966, he was invited by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to become FAA Flight Examiner. In 1970, he left Provo Flying Service to work for Roadrunner Travel Trailer Sales in Ephraim, UT as their Corporate Pilot. The company was later sold and he became the Corporate Pilot for Modern Trailer Sales.

In 1985, he acquired employment with Sky West Airlines and began ground school in March. He often joked about being paid to do what he loved. He loved to tell jokes and stories whether in the sky or on the ground. If near the cockpit, a complete tour guide could be overheard. He enjoyed all the people he knew as he traveled around the country. Lyle retired from the airlines in December 1999. His wings were momentarily removed when he underwent quintuple bypass surgery shortly after retirement. Once recovered, he maintained his Instructor and Examiner licenses and continued testing. At the time of his passing, he had issued over 1500 licenses to pilots across the country over the past 33 years. He had logged over 28,000 flight hours. He truly enjoyed his aviation career and lived each day to its fullest.

His family was the only thing more important than flying. He and Sharon traveled with friends and family often. They went camping, four-wheeling, river running, beach combing, site seeing and boating, but always made time for family. He was a member of the LDS Church and had served in the Elders Quorum, as Ward Mission Leader, and as a Home Teacher. He showed genuine interest and love for all who knew him. He remembered people with deep love and saved many special memoirs, notes and cares over the years which brought great comfort to the family.

He is survived by his wife: Sharon Wilkinson of Brookside, UT; four children: Todd Wilkinson (Stephanie) of St. George, UT; Sue Wiscombe (Shawn) of Caliente, NV; JoLin Schimbeck (Evan) of Caliente, NV; and Dana Hulet (Leonard) of Brookside, UT; 14 grandchildren: Chris, Kayla, Janna, Dirk, Jake, Whitney, Braden, Hannah, Taylor, Parker, Abby, Jaid, Chandler, and Regan.

"Yes, Lyle ... it was a good flight!" <! >

Funeral services will be held Saturday, January 17, 2004 at 11 a.m. at the Veyo LDS Chapel, 176 E. Center, Veyo, UT. Visitations will be held on Friday, January 16, from 6-8 p.m. at Metcalf Mortuary, 288 W. St. George Blvd., St. George, UT and Saturday, January 17, from 10-10:45 a.m. prior to services at the chapel. Interment will follow in the Veyo City Cemetery under the direction of Metcalf Mortuary 435-673-4221. Condolences may be sent through our website at www.metcalfmortuary.com.