



Darrel Hudspeth

May 18, 1925 - February 26, 2016

Life Legacy

John Darrel Hudspeth, 90, of Huntersville, died peacefully on Friday, February 26, surrounded by his family. The World War II veteran and retired Eastern Airlines captain was born May 18, 1925, in Mooresville. He entered the Army Air Corp at the age of 17 and flew B-26 Marauders during the war. After his service, he was a civilian flight instructor for the military in Kinston, N.C. He then signed on with Eastern Airlines, and flew for 30 years. At retirement, he enjoyed spending time at his home on Lake Norman, where he was an avid gardener. He and his wife, LeVada, enjoyed 63 years of marriage and spent much time traveling both commercially and in their small aircraft. As a licensed instructor, he passed on his love of flying to many others. He was a member of the 320th Bomb Group, as well as the Quiet Birdmen. He received the Federal Aviation Association's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. Above all, he was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and was a friend and mentor to many. In addition to his wife, Mr. Hudspeth is survived by a son, Skip Hudspeth and wife, Nancy; two daughters, Rebekah Hudspeth Pike and husband, Richard, and Lisa Hudspeth Taylor-Galizia and husband, Frank; his grandchildren, Maya Hudspeth Urbano, Stephanie Pike Massey, Jonathan Pike, Katie Pike, Mark Pike, and David Taylor; and five great grandchildren. Other survivors are his nephew, Craig Bennett, and niece, Terry Bennett Honeycutt; and special caregiver, Ashley Fry. A graveside service will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, February 28 at Glenwood Memorial Park with a

memorial service following at 1:30 PM at Central United Methodist Church with Rev. Randy Sherrill officiating. A reception will be following the service in the church fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Air Compassion for Veterans, 4620 Haygood Road Suite 1, Virginia Beach, VA 23455 or online at aircompassionforveterans.org.

Tribute Wall



“ *Darrel Hudspeth*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Darrel Hudspeth*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Darrel Hudspeth*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Hudspeth for opening your home to the friends of your children and so many others. I am forever enriched by the friendships that were forged there. Rest in Peace, Darrel. Ron Mack*

March 07, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *So many childhood memories of the times our families shared. My thoughts and prayers are with you all, as is my gratitude for the privilege of knowing Darrel.*

Jim Newman - February 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Skip and Family- Sounds like he was a great man and loved by your family. I am sure he will be sorely missed. My prayers to the Hudspeths at such a difficult time.

Phil Rahn - February 28, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Yet another of the Greatest Generation is gone. Darrel was a member of the 320th Bomb Group, 443rd Bomb Squadron; part of the 9th Air Force. He flew missions from North Africa and Italy in WWII. RIP Mr Hudspeth.....

Dave Wentzel - February 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Lavada, Your sad loss is also our loss. Helene and I have and always will remember the wonderful times we enjoyed and great trips we made together. You and Darrell were solid friends who made life enjoyable. Love always, Bill & Helene

February 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ LaVada or I should say elevator, The times we had - Wayne and I with all our children and yours on Stewart Ave, Heritage and Lake Norman. I stil Think of them so much. The time you and I with the children waiting at Millers Airport for Wayne and Darrell to fly in from a fishing trip - getting dark no lights- wondering if we were going to go and pick them up at another airport - then all of a sudden they buzzed in. I could go on and on I cherish all the memories, love you and your family. Arby Brannon

Arby Brannon - February 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Skip, Our hearts are broken for you and your family. Your dad was one of the good guys! Please know that I am praying for your peace that only our God can give. Marcia Ritchie Anderson

[Contact Me](#)

February 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Skip, Rebekah, and Lisa, so sorry to hear about Darrel's death. He had a good life and a wonderful family. My thoughts are with you all. Patty Ritchie Perry

February 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ LaVada, Skip, Rebekah, Lisa ,,, I am so happy for Darrel that his passage from this world to God's Kingdom was with his family by his side, you were his World. So many cherished memories of our families adventures growing up! , and Darrel's kindness and encouragement was always present. GodSpeed Darrel ...

John Worth Newman Jr - February 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DF

“Darell Hudspeth was a remarkable man whom I feel very privileged to have known so well. I took my first airplane and boat rides with him and he taught me (and many others) how to water ski. He showed all of us how being cool, calm and collected was the best way to live. He was also very kind and considerate to everyone, as he always lived by the Golden Rule. I never saw him get angry about anything, even when he had reason to be. Darrel was a gifted pilot who successfully pursued his passion for flying military, commercial and private aircraft. His bravery is notable for the dangerous missions he flew in the B-26 bomber in Europe during WWII. He truly exemplified a patriotic man from the Greatest Generation who loved his family and his country. He will be missed.

Don Fox - February 27, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“To Skip and Family. I can still remember all those wonderful days on the pontoon boat and all the family gathering at the "lake lot". Most of all, I'll never forget the day when, without and fore warning, Darrel told me to stop the Cessna 150 on the taxi way, got out of the plane and said, "it's all yours now do three take offs and landings to a full stop". Few if any have ever given me more of a sense of accomplishment than Darrel. Our hearts are with you and your family. He was a great man and will be deeply missed. Guy and Evonne Charles

February 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *LaVada, our hearts and our prayers go out to you and your family. Darrel was a good man, a good pilot and a good Captain and will be missed. I was privileged to have flown with him. Bill Tumlin*

Contact Me

February 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *LaVada, so sorry for your loss. Darrel was much loved as you are also. Phyllis Jones Reading*

February 26, 2016 at 12:00 AM