



Marshall "Mike" Routledge

December 9, 1933 - February 5, 2019

Marshall Foster Routledge is known by many different names. Just Mike by friends and co-workers, Sonny by his sisters and best friend by his wife Abby Routledge. Mike went to meet his Lord and Savior on February 5, 2019. He was 85 years young.

Marshall was born December 9, 1933 in Seattle Washington. He was the son of Marshall F. Routledge who was originally from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne in Northern, England and Christina McPherson of Seattle. He was the eldest child of four. There are three younger sisters. Arline Pribb, Marsha Shannon with her husband Paul, and Judy Hjort with her husband Ed-- all from the Seattle area. There are also six nieces and four nephews all living in Washington State. He is also survived by his cousin Patricia Peacock in Tyne and Wear, England, "Adoptive family" Frank and Ruth Abelard, Aaron, Megan and Amanda Abelard, Goddaughter, Tiffany Meites, adopted daughter, Teresa Armstead and numerous friends.

Mike enjoyed tinkering on cars with his friends all through high school, a hobby he kept during the course of his adult life. He loved working on all things mechanical and liked the challenge in finding answers to complex problems. He was rarely stumped by mechanical issues.

He graduated from Lincoln High School, Seattle, WA in 1952 and only attended one semester at the University of Washington until the draft board invited him to come join the U.S. Army. At that time draftees were given a choice to enter the Army for two years or join the Air Force or Navy for four. Mike opted to join the Air Force. His original thought was "it's only two more years" but he ended up serving twenty-three.

He was previously married to Amanda Evans-Evans while stationed in England and had two children – he is survived by a son, Gary Foster Routledge of San Francisco, CA and a daughter, Deborah Routledge Lines, of Beckley, WV.

Marshall started his military career by attending Aircraft Mechanic School. After graduation he sat for his Civilian Airframe and Power Plant Certificate. Later he graduated from the Air Force Flight Engineer School in which he flew AC-47s, C-141s and VC135/137s. His overseas duty stations included Molesworth and Alconbury RAF bases in England and Nha Trang AFB, Vietnam. Stateside duty stations included Patrick AFB, Florida, Hill AFB, Utah, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City(for school) and Travis AFB, California. His last duty

station was the 89th Airlift Wing at Andrews AFB. Also known as Special Air Mission – Presidential Support. During his time at Andrews, Mike flew with most of Presidential Cabinet members. He flew frequently with Presidents Nixon and Ford. Countless flights were with Henry Kissinger while he was National Security Advisor and then Secretary of State. Many of those trips involved in securing a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflicts entailing making trips from Tel Aviv to Cairo or Damascus and back. He was also on most of Kissinger's DC to Paris flights to meet with representative of North Vietnam in order to secure an end to the Vietnam Conflict. Mike was on trips to Peking (Beijing) with Kissinger when he was the first American diplomat to enter China for the first time since WWII. Those flights were a precursor for Richards Nixon's trip to China. His expertise as a Flight Engineer on the unit's VC135 and VC137 aircraft was recognized and he was upgraded to what is known as a FEFE – Flight Engineer-Flight Examiner.

While at Andrews AFB he met and married Linda (Abby) Abelard in August of 1974. Both were in the Air Force. They dated two to three weeks prior to becoming engaged and married three months later. They both believed that being best friends was a key component to a trusting and loving relationship. Their marriage was for forty-four and one-half years ending only with his death.

Mike was recognized by many military awards. The highest medal was the Distinguished Flying Cross. It was awarded for actions during his tour to Vietnam. To quote the write up " He distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as an AC-47 Flight Engineer near Ban Me Thuot on 28 December 1968. He was greatly responsible for turning an imminent hostile victory into a resounding Allied triumph..." it goes on saying that despite terrible flying conditions he assisted in maintaining gun readiness and illumination. One hundred and fifty Allied lives were saved. The citation went on to comment on his professional competence, aerial skill and his devotion to duty. After Retirement from the Air Force, Mike joined the Kerr-McGee Aviation Department as an Aircraft Mechanic. While there, he made many friends and was well respected by the passengers, pilots and peers alike. He later became the Chief Mechanic for the Aviation Department. He was nominated by Kerr-McGee for the Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" Award which was then presented by The Department of Transportation -- Federal Aviation Administration. This award recognizes individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill and aviation expertise for at least 50 years in the aircraft maintenance profession as a "Master Mechanic".

Mike loved tinkering on his cars, tractors and his motorhome. He loved to travel in the RV and belonged to the Tiffin Motorhome Club -- Okie Allegros. He also belonged to the Distinguished Flying Cross Society and He loved his animals and spent many hours just sitting, stroking and talking with them. He made many friends and was respected by all. Known as a tease he could laugh at his pranks and equally laugh at himself when a prank was perpetrated on him. When asked to describe Mike in one and two words many used

the same description – Kind, gentle, loving, slow to anger, Intelligent, teacher, patriotic, sympathetic, steady, hard worker, loyal, friend, forgiving, storyteller, mechanical genius, generous, honest and a hero.

Mike was buried on February 13, 2019 at Ft. Sill National Cemetery, Lawton, Ok with full Military Honors

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations to one's favorite charity, or one of the following -- Alzheimer's association (alz.org), OR a Military Organization such as Fisher House Foundation (fisherhouse.org), Folds of Honor (foldsofhonor.org) or Tunnel to Towers (tunnel2towers.org)

Events

MAR **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

8

Candlewood Chapel

315 S. Sooner Rd., Midwest City, OK, US, 73110

Comments



“ 3 files added to the album LifeTributes



Tom Hanke - March 12, 2019 at 12:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Tom Hanke - March 10, 2019 at 03:53 PM



“ Abby, I was so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. I know he was the love of your life and I'm thankful for the many wonderful memories the two of you had together. God bless you and hold you forever in His arms.

Trish Mayo - March 06, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ 21 files added to the album LifeTributes



Teresa Russell - March 06, 2019 at 04:57 PM



“ 38 files added to the album LifeTributes



Ford Funeral Service - March 06, 2019 at 02:47 PM



“ 27 files added to the album Routlegde Photos



Teresa Russell - March 06, 2019 at 02:40 PM



“ 37 files added to the album LifeTributes



Ford Funeral Service - March 05, 2019 at 05:51 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Marshall "Mike" Routledge.



March 05, 2019 at 12:29 PM



“ Mike was affectingly known as M.R. to all of us that worked with him at the KERR-McGEE CORPORATION's fight department. Mike was the Chief of Maintenance overseeing all of the Aircraft Technicians and the upkeep of all our Corporate Aircraft. Not only was M.R. excellent at maintaining or repairing all the aviation equipment he was a very loyal, dedicated, and hard working fellow employee. M.R. was always a gentleman and an inspiration to us all.

I will always believe that I am a better person from knowing and working M.R.

Joe Sasser

Joe Sasser - February 11, 2019 at 04:38 PM



“ Loved Mike, he was David's roommate. They were good friends. I saw him and David daily, he called me “ David's mother” and that made everyone laugh. I know he is with Jesus and that is wonderful.

Nelly Butris - February 06, 2019 at 06:02 PM