



Lt. Colonel Richard Eugene Beard

December 19, 1933 - November 4, 2010

On November 4th we lost a husband, father, grandfather, great friend, hero, mentor, Richard Beard. Richard loved life in general and relished the personal relationships he had with so many people.

Family and friends were of primary importance to Richard, but he had many passions in his life. Flying, and becoming a pilot with the USAF and Indiana University Air Transportation, his involvement at the Monroe County Fair with the Fair board and the 4H programs, the cattle industry especially Sr and Jr Hereford associations, and his association with Perry-Clear Creek Fire department.

Richard was born on December 19th 1933 in Monroe County to Warren and Maude (Whaley) Beard. He grew up enjoying farm life in southern Indiana and after a stint in the USAF came back to Bloomington where he spent the rest of his life. He graduated from BHS in 1952 and both Purdue and Indiana University and before going on to do many things.

After high school he enlisted in the USAF where he his passion for flying developed. After his honorable discharge from the USAF he was a member of the USAF reserves for over 20 years and retired as a Lt Colonel in 1982. After serving his country, primarily as pilot trainer who developed future pilots of the USAF and pilots from around the world, he returned to Bloomington. He was a proud member of the US military.

Shortly after coming home, Richard began working with Indiana University and was instrumental in the creation of the Indiana University Air

Transportation Department. He ended up working for the university for over 37 years. In addition to serving as Chief Pilot for the university for many years he then took on additional responsibilities. He served as Director of Real Estate for the Indiana University Foundation. He had many duties in that role but one that is often remembered is his leadership of Foun Farms (Martin L Conrad Ranch) for the university. His love of people and the livestock industry was obvious to those who knew Richard. He retired from the university in 1999. Although Richard's family and work life was important to him and he also gave back to the community in abundance. He served on the Monroe County Fairboard for over 20 years and was a past President as well. His love of agriculture is also demonstrated by his service as President of the Indiana Hereford Association. He recently served on the board of the Perry-Clear Creek fire district for over a decade. He was also a member of the Quiet Birdmen and the Elk's club. He is a Sagamore of the Wabash recipient and he served in other organizations throughout his life as well and was also a member of the Fairview United Methodist Church.

Richard is survived by his wife Cathy Beard, his sister Anise (Pete) Osborne, his brother Robert (Betty) Beard, his children Tina (Danny) Arnold, Cathy (Bruce) Garber, and Chris (Mary) Beard. His step-children Sharon (Mike) Arnold, Eric (Deb) Hubbard, Logan Pipher, Lindsay Pipher, and Alex Pipher. His grandchildren are Lesle Webb, Steven Webb, Clint Richardson, Curt Richardson, Stephanie Railey, Joseph Barnes, Taylor Beard, Warren Beard, Nathan Walker, Mikel Arnold, Kelly Waetke, Doug Arnold and their spouses and families. In addition, Richard also has twelve great grandchildren.

Richard is preceded in death by his sister Carol Ann Beard, his brother Charles Herbert Beard, and his son Richard Kevin Beard.

Memorial services will be held at Allen Funeral Home, 4155 S. Old St. Rd. 37, Bloomington at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 9th. Interment with Full Military Honors will be conducted at Valhalla Memorial Gardens. Friends may greet the family during a time of sharing on Monday from 3:00-8:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Monroe County 4-H association in care of Allen Funeral Home. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org

Tribute Wall

DA

“ I would like to express my sympathy to the family of Richard Beard. If you don't know me my father Lowell Whaley was one of Richard's cousins. I've been away from Bloomington for some years now. I enjoyed talking to Richard Beard when I would see him at some of the Beard and Whaley gatherings I used to attend. Sincerely, Dave and Jeanne Whaley.

David Whaley - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

FR

“ Dear Cathy, The time spent with Dick, although limited, was highlighted by his warm friendship and 'can do' attitude. He was such a grand person to be around--he will surely be missed. Fondly, the Clemens'

Florence and Ralph Clemens - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

BO

“ Kathy,
Our sincere condolences to you and your family. Dick and I spent quite a bit of time together in the Cadet program. We remember the good times we had together at the last couple of reunions of '56G. God be with you all.
Bob and Maria Krueger

Bob Krueger - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

MA

“ Cathy,

I am so sorry to learn of Dick's passing. He was loved and admired by so many and he was a great friend. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time.

Mary Ann Davis, Lubbock, TX

MARYANN DAVIS - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

LM

“ Cathy:

You have our greatest sympathy and condolences. Remember you have good friends and former classmates who can help you with this burder. Think of the good times you had as a family the past few years. Take care...

Leah and Joe Morgan and family.... Leah and Terry Padgett

Leah and Joe Morgan - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

D"

“ *Ole' Beardie, I'm gonna miss you. I didn't know you well, but sometimes it doesn't take much to make an impact on someone. Loved the stories you would share about your flying days in the service as well as with IU. My sympathy goes out to your family.*

Donnie "Dingo" Seaton - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

DU

“ Cathy and all your family, Bobbie and I were so saddened to hear of Dicks passing. Over the short time of 10 years I had known Dick,, we had become very good friends. I always looked forward to seeing his smiling face walk into the Pub when I was working and going to French Lick with him when it was just him and me. There are way too many fun times we had to mentions them all but I know Dick touched sooo many lives. He was always there to help out if he could, no matter what he was asked. I will truly miss him as I already do.

Duane

Duane Shutt - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

NA

“ Cathy, so sorry to hear about your loss. May you find comfort in the good memories you shared. Take care.

Nancy Jones - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

JK

“ Cathy: I remember Dick when we were both kids with sparks of anticipation in our eyes for what lay ahead. When we became friends again after forty years, I was happy to see the spark was still there in both of your eyes. "Gear up Dick", we'll miss you. Cathy, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jerry & Katie

Jerry & Katie Bumpus - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

LA

“ To the entire Beard family: our deepest sympathies. We have had the privilege of knowing Dick since the early eighties and have always felt very close. Dick, Jimmie Smaltz, Larry McDaniels and myself, LA. were good friends and had many great times together all over the country. I will miss him a lot. Larry Arthur, Office Lounge.

Larry and Karen Arthur - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

TI

“ Tina,
I am so sorry about the loss of your dad. He seemed like such a nice man. I know he went through a lot. It sounds like he was an amazing man and contributed so many things to his time here. My sympathies and prayers are with you & your family.
Tina

Tina Arnold - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

DA

“ Thinking of your family at this time of loss.

Dayton Wells - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

JB

“ richard was a very easy person to work for. I will miss my old friend for many years to come.

james baugh - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

VP

“ I can still see Dick sitting behind his desk the day he called me in to have a talk about my future. My mother, Retha Massy (she died last year) was his administrative assistant and she was adamant about me finishing college since she never was able to go. Although I was not in danger of not finishing, he wanted me to put more effort into it so as not to cause my mother so much anguish (her problem, not mine). He's on my list of "life mentors" and I always will think highly of him. I'm extremely sorry he didn't have more time since his life was so full. VAMP

Vicki Massy Palmer - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

VL

“ I send my love with deepest sympathy. I too shall miss him.

Vesta Lou Hubbard - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM

RH

“ our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Richard & Barb Huntrods - October 26, 2015 at 04:29 PM