



## Richard Lee Hackler

March 28, 1934 - June 19, 2017

Richard Lee Hackler, 83, of Bloomington, passed away on June 19, 2017 at Hearthstone Health Campus. Dick was born in Monticello, Indiana on March 28, 1934. In 1954, he began pilot training in the USAF, Class 55-P. He served 20 years in the USAF, retiring as a Major. His primary duty was as a B-52 Instructor Pilot. He flew 198 combat missions in Vietnam and his highest decoration was the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Dick and Phyllis Rich married near the beginning of his Air Force career. She was his greatest supporter for 52 years until her death in 2008. He married Doris Craig Fisher in 2012. After retiring from the USAF, he was a pilot for the local commuter, Britt Airways, which provided non-stop service from Monroe County Airport to Chicago's O'Hare Airport, for ten years. The final five years of his flying career were spent in the charter department and flying the proving runs for a new service in the Pacific from Guam to Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Dick greatly enjoyed sports and was a Bloomington High School varsity player participating in football, basketball, and baseball, and was named all state in football. He coached Little League baseball for four years while he was stationed in California. He was a member of the Bloomington Country Club for 26 years where he scored his only hole in one in 1991.

Dick was the eldest son of Sheldon Vernon Hackler and Mary Honora (Sims)

Hackler. He attended Fairview Elementary School, graduated from Bloomington High School in 1952, and attended Indiana University for two years before entering pilot training. He completed his college education at Chapman College, graduating in 1975.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Phyllis, parents-in-law Claude and Gertrude Rich, brother LeRoy, son Steven, and grandson Cory.

Survivors include his wife, Doris, siblings Robert (Jane), Ron (Ellie), RuthAnn (Ben) Walden, brother Rick (Debbie), son Rod (Laurie), daughter-in-law Lisa, brother-in-law David Rich, and grandchildren Trent (Brianna), Amber, Lauren, and Matthew.

Noticing a change in his physical condition, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1995, which he battled from that time forward.

The Monroe Veterans Honor Guard will perform military rites at graveside at Valhalla Memorial Gardens, at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, June 26, 2017, with a gathering of friends will follow. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington, have been entrusted with arrangements. You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Tribute Wall

ST

“ I was recently contacted by someone I knew while flying at my regional airline job. Captain Hacklers name came up and I remembered the joy I had flying with him. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face.

He was a gentle man with a very warm personality, and I will remember him forever.

He used to fly for Britt Airways and told me it stood for Be Really Inconsiderate To Travelers. I still share that humorous story.

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steve - December 03, 2022 at 10:34 PM

HB

“ Dick and I met at high school freshman football practice. He was, unquestionably, the toughest guy I ever knew. Undersized for a lineman, he could move out guys twice his size. And he earned Indiana All-State recognition for it. He was a shirttail cousin. We shared the same great-grandfather and were lifelong friends. We flew the same AF bomber in the early sixties. We were playing golf at Cascades about twenty years ago and the Parkinson's had affected his balance. Several times during the round while walking down the fairway he would lose balance and fall, roll on his shoulder and spring back to his feet, grab the golf cart and move on as if nothing had happened. He told me not to worry about it - and I didn't. Dick was a solid citizen - the kind of guy you would want with you in the trenches.

Hal Bowman

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hal bowman - June 26, 2017 at 06:57 PM

JM

“ Dear Friends:

*I guess that of all of you I recall Bob better than others.*

*It is with deep and profound sorrow that we note Dick's passing. My memories are longlasting and go back to our days as BHS Football Teammates. As 2d string Center my Junior Year(his Sr) I had to play against him every day. He was -by far- the toughest and best guy that I EVER played against and that includes a whole lot of guys my senior year as i was starting defensive Tackle.*

*Dick was exceptionally kind to my late wife Carol and I as he insisted that we stay with him in the Fall of 2008 at our 55th Reunion.*

*Then he joined us at Lucas Oil Stadium at the end of November when our Grandson, Joel Bone, quarterbacked Belmont HS to the 3A State Title. Our whole Family was thrilled to have him present. Then he was kind enough to come to the Cemetery on July 29, 2013 when we laid Carol to rest and it was with great effort that he came also.*

*I am terribly sorry not to be able to join you today, but I simply am not able to get away on relatively short notice to make the 200 mile trip from here north of Fort Wayne..*

*Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you today as you lay this wonderful Friend and Teammate to rest.*

*John & Lyn Ramsey*

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**John E. Ramsey MD** - June 26, 2017 at 06:49 AM