



David Allen McRobie

February 6, 1939 - July 25, 2022

David Allen McRobie, 83, of Fairmont passed away on Monday, July 25, 2022. He was born in Fairmont on February 06, 1939, a son of the late Calvin Frances and Mabel Linn McRobie.

David enlisted in the Air Force in April 1955, where he proudly served until 1976 retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant. David had a multi-faceted career. He owned his own construction company, worked for Chessie System Railroad as a brakeman and engineer, and was a tractor-trailer driver for United Parcel Service. It can't go unremarked that David was a man in motion. He always seemed to be going somewhere, literally. In the Air Force, he travelled the world. As a brakeman/engineer, he drove trains across West Virginia. As a truck driver, he drove across America's highways. As a pilot, he flew above them. But no matter where he went, or how he got there, he always came back home to West Virginia. It's remarkable that he always came back home. This is meant both in a sentimental way, but also in a very real sense. Because at no fault of his own, Dave wrecked nearly every mode of transportation. It is a miracle he survived some of these. He wrecked cars, motorcycles, and trucks (and oh man, was that last one a doozy). Most impressively, David wrecked a train "the Cowen 48". When coming out of the mountain tunnel, he discovered the 602 feet railroad trestle above a 70-foot-deep lake in front of him was on fire. Knowing he could not slow the train in time, David opened the throttle and drove the train across the burning bridge, getting the three diesel engines and the first few coal cars safely across. Derailed cars were left strung across the bridge on charred ties, with the remainder of the 87-car train stopping inside the tunnel. The arriving rescue crew found him atop the locomotive eating his lunch. Tip your cap to Dave's guardian angel. That one had to work overtime that day.

In his later years, David enjoyed gardening, spending time at the Marion County Senior Center and working out at Fairmont Fitness. He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol, and the V.F.W. David had a love of flying and enjoyed sharing his passion with others. David would loan his Cessna 172 plane to students and other pilots for them to acquire or check-

rides to maintain their license. In early 2021, he donated his plane to Fairmont State University Aviation Program since he was no longer physically able to fly.

He is survived by three sons Michael McRobie and his wife Nancy of Dover, Delaware, David W. McRobie and his wife Darla of Fairmont and Steve McRobie of Morgantown; three daughters Shelda Martin and her husband Scott of Charleston, WV, Rhonda Starsick and her husband Rick of Fairmont, WV, and Donna Belle and her husband John of Dallas, Texas; one brother Dale McRobie and his wife Mary of Belmont, Ohio; four sisters Luella Ice and her husband Bill of Fairmont, WV, Linda Barnette of Fairmont, WV, Francis Louise McRobie of Kingmont, WV and Betsy Pipes and her husband Michael of Savannah, Tennessee; fifteen grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his ex-wife Christine of 36 years and one sister Alice Lea Chevront.

Friends may call at Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home on Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A service will be held at the funeral home on Saturday, July 30, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Scott Krepps officiating. Burial will follow at Linn Cemetery where full military rites will be conducted by the Marion County Veteran's Honor Guard assisted by the United States Airforce.

Condolence and memories may be shared at www.carpenterandford.com

Cemetery Details

Linn Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 29. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home
209 Merchant Street
Fairmont, WV 26554
carpenterandfordfh@gmail.com

Visitation

JUL 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home
209 Merchant Street
Fairmont, WV 26554
carpenterandfordfh@gmail.com

Service

JUL 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Carpenter and Ford Funeral Home
209 Merchant Street
Fairmont, WV 26554
carpenterandfordfh@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

VN

“ *Enjoyed his company when he attended the Senior Center. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. Marion County Senior Citizens.*

Vicki Nichols - July 29 at 01:37 PM

MC

“ *Maj. Jeffrey Adkins, Wing Chaplain, WV*

We were all saddened to hear of your loss. David was a valued member of Civil Air Patrol. While his presence will be missed the memories of his life will continue to inspire and delight those with whom they are shared.

Please excuse my physical absence as I am recovering from Covid and have not been released to travel. I will hold the family up in prayer and may God grant you the peace that passes all understanding during this time. Again, I am so sorry I am unable to make the trip to be with you. May God bless you all

MAJ. Jeffrey Adkins, WV Wing Chaplain - July 29 at 12:41 PM

LG

“ *Rhonda- so very sorry for your loss. We always enjoyed hearing stories about your Dad and the occasional visits to your shop. Hugs & Prayers-love you- Donna and Leah*

Leah Price and Donna Gifford - July 29 at 12:33 PM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of David Allen McRobie, give you peace, comfort and
strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be
forgotten.*

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

*US Air Force Veteran, David Allen McRobie, is “A True American Hero” God
Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13 †*

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - July 29 at 05:32 AM

BG

“ *I’m so sorry to hear of David’s death. My condolences to the entire family. May he
rest in peace.*

Brenda Williams Gibson

Brenda Williams Gibson - July 28 at 06:18 PM

RO

“ *The story about the train is true! He told me that story, however I thought he was
making it up. - lol*

Rocco - July 28 at 03:57 PM

BB

“ *Rhonda and family, I am so sorry to read about your father's death. He sounds
like he was an amazing man ! .Please know that we send our sincere sympathy
to you all.*

Sharon and Bud Burik

Bud and Sharon Burik - July 28 at 10:38 AM