



Mr. Arnold Carlton Tidwell

April 6, 1929 - January 5, 2021

Arnold “Ace” Carlton Tidwell, 91, of Tallahassee, passed away on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Born in Freeport, Florida, on April 6, 1929, he was a son of the late Cleveland Matthew and Carrie Annie Griffith Tidwell. He is also preceded in death by his wife June Allen Tidwell; and siblings, Hazel Tidwell Rachels, Louise Tidwell Peters and Glen Joseph Tidwell.

He faithfully served his country in the United States Air Force, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant with an honorable discharge on July 8, 1952. Following his military service, he attended the 13th Florida Highway Patrol Recruit Class and went to work and retired from the Florida Highway Patrol as a Highway Patrolman, hitchhiking to his first assignment from Gaskin, Florida to Orlando, Florida, and later was assigned as a pilot, flying Bud Dickinson, Comptroller, and members of the Florida Cabinet, as well as Governor Claude R. Kirk, Jr. It was from Governor Kirk the he earned the nickname “Ace”.

After retiring from FHP, Ace opened Ace Flying School in Tallahassee, Florida. It was an international flight training program, teaching students from all over the world. Ace was an FAA examiner and even flunked a famous singer. He never visited Margaritaville after that. After retiring from flight training, he joined the “party patrol” and enjoyed traveling, fishing and a most beautiful view of Lake Talquin.

Ace was a big country music fan and managed the “family band” knows as the Moonlighters. He wife sang, his son Chuck played lead guitar, and daughter Susan would often sing and play. Ace was very proud of his son Chuck’s artistic and musical talents. He and daughter Susan were always “best buddies.”

Survivors include his children, Susan Bryant (Tedd) and Chuck Tidwell (Becky); grandchildren, Taylor Tidwell, Dustin Tidwell, Sherry Neal (Matt), Fred Willis (Kelly), Lance Willis (Jenny), Buck Bowen (Miranda), Mindy Harrison (Travis), Carlee Willis (John), Tedd

Bryant, Hollie Bryant and Ben Bryant (Jaimie); great-grandchildren, Logan Bowen, Carson Hurst, Shelbie Jordan, Jodi Lopez, Taylor Bryant, Savannah Bryant, Andrew Willis, Amelia Willis, Alyssa Harrison, Wyatt Harrison, Hunter Neal, Alleyna Neal, Connor Willis, Annie Willis, Amber Thady, Valerie Sato and Jason Sedillo; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Bible Believers Fellowship at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bible Believers Fellowship. Online condolences may be expressed at <http://www.abbeyfh.com>.

Comments



“ My prayers are with the family during this time. When I worked with Ace back in 1978 at FHP Troop M, he had a way of brightening my day with funny stories and laughter. I was blessed to have known and worked with him. Thankful to have been blessed by Susie's kindness and friendship back then too when we worked together for a short time at the FHP Academy. I know Ace is happily flying high in the Heavens.

Selma Barfield Sauls

Selma Sauls - January 19 at 12:52 AM



“ Ace was one of the first people I met when I moved to Tallahassee in 1974. He and I worked together for a number of years with FHP. Ace always had a story or experience to share and enjoyed a good time. I will never forget at his retirement fish fry, he even brought his own rocking chair. My condolences to his family in their loss. So long Ace, you were one of the best.

Mike Boles
FHP, retired

Mike Boles - January 15 at 01:31 PM



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Selma Barfield Sauls

Selma Sauls - January 16 at 11:16 AM



“ Ace was a huge positive influence on this young FHP dispatcher (RTO). I often recall him inviting me on a flight to ATL on board a twin Beechcraft. He told me after takeoff we were headed to have it repaired (gulp). Later it said it was the auto pilot only. Condolences to his family and friends.

Paul Phillips - January 17 at 12:52 PM



“ Ace and I knew each other for many years, I was a student pilot and took my ground school course from his Flight School. Recently reconnected at Tallahassee Moose Lodge, where he enjoyed playing Bingo and talking about his days of flying for the Highway Patrol. He was a gentleman and friend, will miss him.
Sally Gandy

Sally Gandy - January 13 at 10:34 AM