



William B. Carruthers

January 13, 1945 - November 18, 2019

William B. Carruthers, Jr., 74, of Charlotte NC passed away peacefully at home November 18, 2019. He is survived by his wife Christine Carruthers of Charlotte, NC, sons William B. Carruthers, III (Dan Yang) of Cary, NC, Charles W. Carruthers of Charlotte, sister Susan Carruthers Fromkes (John) of Columbus, Ohio; aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and great-nephews. Bill is predeceased by his parents and sister Kathryn Maness.

Born in 1945 in Philadelphia, PA to William B. Carruthers and wife Emily, he grew up in Atlanta, GA and Birmingham, AL. After graduating from Auburn University, Bill joined the Air Force and spent a year in Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller flying O-2As. There he earned three Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Returning from Vietnam, Bill flew B-52s at Seymour Johnson AFB, where he met his wife Chris. They married in 1974 and after returning to civilian life they settled in Charlotte and started a family. Bill was a loving husband and caring father. He joined Piedmont Airlines/USAirways as a pilot, flying internationally until retiring due to Parkinsons. During this time Bill chose to honor those involved in the 1972 Battle of An Loc, creating the historical archive anloc.org.

Always passionate about photography, Bill spent recent years capturing the beauty of nature and agility of hummingbirds, among other subjects.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held at 3:00 PM Saturday December 7, 2019 at Forest Lawn East Cemetery, 3700 Forest Lawn Drive, Matthews. Visitation will be held from 2-3 PM in the chapel of Heritage Funeral Home, Weddington Chapel. Online condolences may be made at <https://www.heritagecares.com>

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to the Special Olympics of North Carolina (<https://sonc.net>), Camp Blue Skies (<https://www.campblueskies.org>), Humane Society of Charlotte (<https://humanesocietyofcharlotte.org>), or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Forest Lawn East Cemetery

3700 Forest Lawn Drive
Matthews, NC 28104

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 7. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Heritage Funeral Home, Weddington/Matthews
3700 Forest Lawn Drive
Matthews, NC 28104

Memorial Service

DEC 7. 3:00 PM (ET)

Forest Lawn East Cemetery
3700 Forest Lawn Drive
Matthews, NC 28104

Tribute Wall

DW

“ *Bill, was a fellow Southeast Asia vet, a combat aviator, a real hero, a great American, and a dear and lifetime friend. He is sorely missed.*

To his family, we offer our deepest condolences in this time of grief.

To Bill, we render a tearful slow hand salute and a firm commitment that we will all meet again in eternal joy.

Darrel Whitcomb

Darrel Whitcomb - December 06, 2019 at 03:50 PM

SO

“ *Chris, so sorry about your loss. I feel cheated to have not had long enough to get to know*

Bill.. I have sincere respect for his service to our country. I loved his sense of humor. Respectfully, Sue

sue o'connell - November 28, 2019 at 09:14 PM

TO

“ *I'm one of the many Air Force pilots who had the honor of flying, fighting and laughing with Bill. He flew the skies of Vietnam and Cambodia, through long dark nights and action packed days, and was one of the heroes of the desperate battle at An Loc. A mild mannered comrade, but a fierce tiger in a fight. As George Patton remarked, we should not mourn that men like this died, but thank God that they lived.*

My thoughts and prayers for peace to his family.

Tom O'Neill

THOMAS O'NEILL - November 26, 2019 at 05:13 PM

CC

*Tom,
Thank you. Your words mean so much to me.*

Chris Carruthers

Chris Carruthers - November 27, 2019 at 12:14 PM

CF

“*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds -
and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of -
wheeled and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence.
Hovering there I've chased the shouting wind along
and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.
"Up, up the long delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
where never lark, or even eagle, flew;
and, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
the high untrespassed sanctity of space,
put out my hand and touched the face of God."*

Deepest Condolences to the family

Brothers and Sisters of the Piedmont Silver Eagles

Colleen Fields - November 25, 2019 at 11:46 PM

CC

Colleen,

This is one of my favorite poems and is so appropriate...thankyou for thinking of us.

Chris Carruthers

Chris Carruthers - November 27, 2019 at 12:20 PM

EJ

A great man, tender heart and sharp wit. Enjoyed talking with Bill about An Loc and about his love of planes, pictures, music and more.

*Chris, so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Ed Jackson*

Ed Jackson - November 29, 2019 at 09:11 AM

IB

I worked with Bill at Pinehurst Airlines, Orion Air, and Piedmont Airlines. A true war hero and a fine man. He was a great guy to be around and always had a positive attitude. RIP brother.

Ivan Beach - December 06, 2019 at 11:32 AM

BB

*My deepest sympathies for your loss of Bill. He and I flew together in Manassas, Va. with Piedmont Aviation and later in Myrtle Beach with a start-up, Atlantis Airlines. I'll always have fond memories of him.
God Bless you, Bill. I'll miss you.*

Brian W. Beebe

Brian W Beebe - August 10 at 08:25 PM