



Danny Louis "Dan" Gillaspie

June 11, 1948 - August 21, 2021

“NO REGRETS. JUST LOVE.”

Danny Louis “Dan” Gillaspie, 73, of Enid, Oklahoma died and went peacefully into the arms of his Heavenly Father on August 21, 2021 at Integris Bass Baptist Hospital in Enid, Oklahoma, surrounded by the family that he laughed with, lived for and loved.

He was a member of Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church in Enid where he served as Treasurer and operated the sound system.

Dan retired from the United States Air Force as a Lt. Col. in 1990 after 20 years of flying T-37, F-4 Phantom II, F-4G Wild Weasel, and T-38 Talon aircraft. He worked 31 years as a T-38 Simulator instructor at Vance AFB, OK.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Betty Gillaspie. He is survived by his best friend and WIFE of 51 years Sara; their 3 CHILDREN: daughter Lara (Jim) Helfrich of Newton, KS; daughter Emily (John) Buller of Kremlin, OK; and son Charles “Charlie” (Darlene) Gillaspie of McAlester, OK; GRANDCHILDREN: Tim Jantzi (Taylor Peck); Allison (Wyatt) Roth; Joshua Jantzi; Haven (Cody) Faris; Garrett Helfrich (Kay Hamm); Jessica Buller, Samuel Buller and Jacob Buller; Colton Gillaspie and Cooper Gillaspie; GREAT GRANDCHILDREN: Olivia, Hunter, Carter and Oaklynn (Haven & Cody) Faris; newborn Rainn Louis Mahlon (Allison and Wyatt) Roth, unborn Willow Lavina Michelle (Garrett & Kay) Helfrich due in October; SISTER Susie (Duane) Steinkraus of Waterloo, Iowa, AUNT Sharon (Bill) Harriman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as well as many cousins, countless friends and coworkers, and

current and former pilots in every corner of the world.

He held his love for Jesus Christ above everything else, but his family was a close 2nd. We will celebrate the life of this Christian husband, father, Papa, pilot, friend, teacher, fisherman and fisher-of-men at a date TBD. One celebration will be held near Enid, Oklahoma led by Pastor Al McVety; one in Deep River, Iowa assisted by Ed Evans and The American Legion Post 296; and one at Charlie and Darlene Gillaspie's Homestead near McAlester over next 4th of July holiday weekend. Anderson-Burriss Funeral Home will have a tribute page on their website www.andersonburriss.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in memory of Dan Gillaspie to:

The American Legion Post 296 in Deep River, Iowa;

Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in McAlester, OK;

Oklahoma Bible Academy in Enid, OK;

Hillsdale Christian School (Fund-Raising) in Hillsdale, OK.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ I first met Danny as a T-37 IP at Webb AFB in the early 1970's. We were together again at Vance as Sim Instructors in 1992 - 1994. He always had a smile on his face. My condolences to his family.

Dale Schaub

Dale Schaub - September 13, 2021 at 01:30 PM

RB

“ Dan and I met as freshmen in 1966 at UNI, then known as the State College of Iowa. We were very fortunate to be members of Clarke House, as there was such tremendous chemistry with the newcomers mixing with the upper classmen. That chemistry developed into close friendships and leaderships resulting in lifelong memories and achievements including 5 consecutive All-University Intramural Sports Championships and social notoriety with "Dating Games" and "Clarke House Sweetheart" contests. A true brotherhood developed in the house, with most members staying there through graduation. We have held Clarke House reunions with tremendous turnouts, the most recent one was held at UNI in Cedar Falls in 2016.

Dan will be greatly missed by all house members who knew him. He was such a true and genuine friend from the time you met him, who always had a smile and a cute remark or joke up his sleeve. He and I had frequent conversations about our roots in similar "one-horse towns so small that we had to share a horse with another town". I'm sure I can speak for the entire Clarke House alumnae of the 1966-'70 era as we send our sincerest condolences and sympathy to his family. We were all so lucky to have known him well and have him in our lives for a while.

Richard "Dick" Butschi
Center Point, Iowa

Richard Butschi - September 03, 2021 at 04:05 PM

CG

Richard, this is Dan's son, Charlie. I've got a picture of Dad reading a book to my son as recent as last year with him wearing a Clarke House yellow tshirt. If you have any pictures of that time frame ('66-'70) with Dad and you that you would be willing to share, I will get you my address to mail them to me. I know that Clarke House held a special place in Dad's heart.

Charlie Gillaspie - September 29, 2021 at 07:21 AM

JB

“ It was my honor and pleasure to have know and worked with Danny for 15 years as the LSI supervisor and a worker bee with him , all my condolences and prayers for Sara and the family..We all will meet at a happier place in the future I am sure of that !! Jack(Pappy) Beam

Jack Beam - August 29, 2021 at 03:09 PM

GT

“ I had the distinct honor of being Dan's supervisor in the T-38 simulator instructor corps for 15 years. Out of a group of highly trained, outstanding professional instructors within the T-38 Branch, Dan was one of the "best or the best". All of us will miss him greatly. My heartfelt sympathy to Sara, family, and other loved ones. George Throckmorton

George Throckmorton - August 26, 2021 at 10:02 AM

BE

“ Mr. Gillaspie was one of the best teachers I had the pleasure of working with during pilot training. He always had a smile on his face and would challenge you in unique ways. More than that he had a special way of talking and connecting with people. He will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Ben - August 26, 2021 at 09:10 AM

MR

“ I have known and worked with Danny for 20+ years at Vance. I don't think I ever saw him without a smile on his face. He was a wonderful mentor and colleague and he will be sorely missed. RIP my friend. My prayers & Condolences to the family. ~Mike Rich

Mike Rich - August 25, 2021 at 10:40 PM

RJ

“ Danny was a great guy. I worked with him in the simulators at Vance. Gonna miss him.

Robert Johnson - August 25, 2021 at 08:49 AM

JM

“ Danny an I worked side by side for many years. What a great guy. So sorry to see him go. My condolences to all his family and friends.

Jim Mayhall - August 24, 2021 at 11:01 AM

CD

I didn't know hem well but I wish the family best wishes

Charles Dodd - August 24, 2021 at 12:16 PM

SJ

You are all in my thoughts and prayers, what a wonderful man, so kind and thoughtful ,very loving to his family and all who knew him. So sorry to see you go Danny! And also sorry for those who You leave behind.

Sheryl Johnson - August 24, 2021 at 12:42 PM

JF

Worked with Danny in the simulators at Vance plus we were at Webb AFB in the same time frame when he was there for training. Condolences to the Gillaspie Family.

James Faulkner - August 24, 2021 at 01:12 PM

BH

I was stationed with Danny for a short time at Nellis AFB in the early 80's. Then we met again as he helped train me to be a T-37 simulator instructor and again when I move to be a T-38 sim IP. He was always willing to help me and others become better IP's. His knowledge and skills will be missed by the AF and I'm sure by his family. Condolences to the family.
Bruce and Connie Hammond

bruce hammond - August 24, 2021 at 09:35 PM

RW

Helped me when I moved here 23 years ago, and many times as a simulator instructor. I appreciate all that he did for me and everyone else....he will be missed by all that knew him. Condolences to all in his family. He was one of the best. Roger & Cathy Wiles

Roger Wiles - August 24, 2021 at 09:41 PM

JH

Danny was my first supervisor when I started as a CSI in 1991. During the next 27 years, he was one of the most straight forward, honest, and dedicated instructors I had the pleasure of working with. He was always interested in going the extra mile to help everyone in the section, and do all he could for the students he flew with. He will always hold a special place in my memories. My heartfelt Condolences and Prayers go out to all in his family. James & Ines Hollberg

James "BerG" Hollberg - August 25, 2021 at 02:20 AM

VB

Dan was an awesome guy. Loved by all he come in contact with. Heaven got a great one ❤️

violet brinkley - August 25, 2021 at 08:10 AM

WB

Danny and I worked at Vance AFB together. We saw each other at the Woodring Airport restaurant. Just seeing his smile as we greeted made the day better.

William Blunk - August 25, 2021 at 08:31 AM

HL

I've known Dan since 1997, when I was active duty and later in retirement, as a simulator guy. Dan was one of the most level headed, kind hearted human beings you could ever want to meet. I greatly enjoyed working with him and will sorely miss him. I hope he finally caught that fish he was always after. May God bless and keep him.

Hank Lade - August 25, 2021 at 10:17 AM

JM

See you next time Dan. Really great guy. Seems like yesterday i was working with him during his last T-38 test in the CAI lab. He will be greatly missed. Deepest condolences to all his family and friends.

Joseph Melrose - August 26, 2021 at 08:51 AM

JC

Mr. Gillaspie was a name that you knew at Vance AFB even if you weren't a SIM instructor or student pilot going thru training. Prayers of comfort for your family, friends and coworkers as we rejoice and celebrate him going home to his fathers house!

Jacque Christmas - August 26, 2021 at 09:40 AM

CS

My time as a T-37/T-6 simulator instructor and Danny's as a T-38 simulator instructor overlapped 13 years. He was the funniest guy I ever met, one in a million. My heartfelt condolences to Sara, family, and friends. God bless you, Danny.

Chris Sember - August 30, 2021 at 09:48 PM