



Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael

May 22, 1956 - November 4, 2017

Celebration of Life Service for Lt. Col (Ret) David Chael, 61, will be Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at Central Christian Church with Rev. Don Bryant officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Anderson-Burris Funeral Home and Crematory.

David was born on May 22, 1956 in Kansas City, Kansas to Frederick and Martha Pool Chael and died on November 4, 2017 in Alva, Oklahoma.

Lt. Col (Ret) Chael graduated from Kansas State University in 1980 with a Bachelor of Architecture (Magna Cum Laude), and worked initially as a professional photographer in Kansas City. A lifelong love of flying began in 1981 when his employer introduced him to commercial aerial photography. After earning his private pilot certificate, David entered military service in 1983 at the USAF Officer Training School, Lackland AFB, Texas where he was commissioned with honors as a distinguished graduate. He attended pilot training at Vance AFB, Oklahoma and earned his Air Force Wings in 1984. David was selected to fly the T-38A "Talon" as a First Assignment instructor Pilot at Vance, where he met and married Sue Huckleberry, an Enid native in 1987. Lt. Col. (Ret) flew at Vance until 1989, when he was assigned to fly the Lockheed C-141B "Starlifter" at McChord AFB, Washington. Flying missions around the globe, he proudly served in the European and Middle Eastern

theaters during Operation DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM prior to temporarily separating from the Air Force in 1991. Lt. Col. (Ret) Chael then worked as a Contract Simulator instructor at Vance AFB in the T-37B "Tweet", and was recruited in 1995 to transition to a challenging civilian position serving as the Vance AFB Community Planner, orchestrating long-range strategic planning initiatives that helped transition the base into the thriving Undergraduate Pilot Training facility it is today. In 1999, Lt. Col. (Ret) Chael returned to Air Force flying, joining the elite 5th Flying Training Squadron "Spitten Kittens." He first flew the T-37B "Tweet" and later transitioned to the T-6A "Texan II" in 2006. Formerly the squadron's Director of Training and a T-6 Flight Commander, he served as the 5 FTS Assistant Director of Operations. David has amassed over 10,700 total hours in command of a wide variety of civilian aircraft and is qualified as a second-in-command pilot in the Cessna Citation. David continued to work on a part-time basis as a photographer and contract pilot, flying corporate jets under his newly-founded company, ChaelAir, LLC. David was an active member of the Central Christian Church, where he had served as an elder, deacon, and property chair.

David was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Jack Huckleberry.

He is survived by his wife, Sue Chael of the home; son, Zach Chael and fiancée Ashley Harris of Oklahoma City, daughter, Dr. Lauren Chael-Hendrickson and husband, Stephen and granddaughters, Emily and Bridget all of Fishers, Indiana; his parents, Fred and Martha Chael of Kansas City, MO; three brothers and their wives, Rick and Kathy Chael of Grandview, MO, Ted and Brenda Chael of Overland Park, KS, and Mike and Lori Chael of Lenexa, KS; mother-in-law, Della Huckleberry of Enid; brother-in-law, J. Curtis Huckleberry of Enid; other relatives and many friends.

Memorials may be made to Central Christian Church or Woodring New Terminal Building through the funeral home.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 11. 3:00 PM (CT)

Central Christian Church
1111 West Broadway
Enid, OK 73703

Tribute Wall

BD

“ I went to Kansas State University with David and graduated with him through the Architecture program. I will always remember his warm personality and ever present smile. I am so sorry for your loss. He has his eternal wings now!! Condolences to the whole family; he will be missed but not forgotten!!
Bruce Dimmig

Bruce Dimmig - March 08, 2018 at 04:55 PM

CS

“ I'm stunned to have just learned by old squadron mate, Dave Chael, has passed on. It's not surprising to learn it happened while he was doing what he loved so much -- flying airplanes -- but that doesn't ease the sadness everyone must be feeling. My heart goes out to Sue and his family. Dave and I go way back to when we were both flying C-141s out of McChord AFB. He was especially fun to fly with because he always had entertaining stories to help the hours of cruise flight go by faster and he was always eager to experience the culture the surrounding communities had to offer after buttoning up the jet. Dave's interest in aviation photography stretched back to those days as well. He was always snapping photos of interesting cloud formations, the open ocean or mountain ranges as we crossed over them. The cover photo on my Facebook page was taken by Dave while we were cruising somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean in those days. It's still one of the best photos of me that has ever been taken. He truly was as talented a photographer as he was a pilot. So here's to you, Dave. You're cleared for that unrestricted climb. I'm sure you'll see our other squadron mates, Dave Sielewicz, Jimmy Lee Jenkins and Kevin McGuire at your next crew rest. So next time I see you, all four of you better have a beer waiting for me...

Cameron Shackelford - December 12, 2017 at 03:40 PM

TC

“ It has been a few years since my last contact with members of the 5th Spittin Kittens, but I remember when Dave originally approached us about returning to military flying with the newly formed squadron at Vance. I immediately liked him and knew we had to find a way to get him back instructing AF student pilots again. It was clear that he was genuinely nice, smart and sincere. We were blessed that that became a reality, and he served many more years contributing to the AF training mission. It was guys like Dave who defined exactly what we wanted to be in the 340th Flying Training Group. The few times I saw Dave later it always brought a smile to my face. I was so sad to learn of his passing. We have all lost something in his departure. There is no replacing him, but I know he set the example for many AF IPs and students and we are the better for it. Tim Cahoon

Tim Cahoon - November 12, 2017 at 07:26 PM

JG

Just found out about Dave's accident from his former neighbor, while training him in the American Airlines simulator. Shocked and saddened. I worked with Dave as a CSI sim instructor at Vance, from 1991-1994 after I retired from USAF flying. I haven't seen Dave in 27 years, but i remember him as a fun loving and intelligent person. Prayers to the family for their loss.
Jim Greider, USAF Retired

jim Greider - April 14, 2021 at 09:19 AM

 Frank
Molnar Jr.

“ I always liked to fly with the Reserves on Friday. After flying, there was always some sort of beer drinking and story telling going on. After "hanging with the bros" I would seek out Dave. He was almost always still working late because he was a workaholic which I loved to kid him about. Anyway, I would offer him a beer which the first few times he would politely decline as he did not have the love of beer that I have. What I soon discovered however was that Uncle Dave would politely inquire if I minded if he "set sail with The Captain" as in Captain Morgan's Rum. He had a small bottle in his desk which he used as an end of the week treat. I quickly learned that if I showed up with a beer in hand for myself and a Coke to mix with Dave's Captain Morgan, his eyes would light up!!! We solved many of the world's problems, discussed flying, family, and faith, almost always in that order. I had the great privilege of doing this almost every Friday for three years.

Dave was one of the finest people I ever served with in my 26 years of military service in two different branches. The man had a work ethic that I still can't even fathom. His infectious smile, laugh, and positive attitude were contagious. He had not an enemy in the world and was truly a fine human being. I will miss him, especially on Friday's!!!

Dave's passing hit me hard. I was in such a funk that I couldn't do anything for a day and a half. I had an airline trip which I wondered how I was going to fly but then it hit me that Uncle Dave would have wanted me to go fly and I so did. It really helped being out flying and thinking that Dave passed doing something he loved to do as well.

Frank "Hork" Molnar, LtCol (Ret)

Frank Molnar Jr. - November 12, 2017 at 02:41 PM

BO

“ *Brandon O'Rear lit a candle in memory of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael*



Brandon O'Rear - November 12, 2017 at 01:57 AM

BB

“ *Both Bethe and I had the privilege of working with Dave at Vance AFB for many years. He was always upbeat and positive and a pleasure to be around. He was fortunate to be doing what he so loved-flying and teaching. He has “trod the high untrespassed sanctity of space, put out his hand, and touched the face of God”. Dave, miss you now. Bear and Bethe Bryant*

Bear and Bethe Bryant - November 10, 2017 at 08:04 PM

TR

“ *I first met David when he was in the Christmas Pageant at Emmanuel which was years ago. David had such a dry sense of humor and was always keeping us in stitches behind the scenes. I think we got in trouble a couple of times because we were laughing. Sue as I shared with you the other night whenever I say that I am praying for you, Zach, Della and your extended family know I am praying. I have never walked the journey you are now embarking on but just know you have many people who love you and will walk this journey with you every day. Know I will be in contact with you after everything is over and you are begin this journey. Numbers 6:24-26 "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord be gracious to you and give you His peace". Traci Bandy Jenkins.*

Traci - November 10, 2017 at 06:47 PM

LB

“ I first met Dave through Cliff's Camera, he was a regular since he loved photography. I also went to school with his lovely wife, Sue. Dave was always so cheerful and had a servant's heart. I saw him twice the week prior to the accident working happily remodeling the nursery at Central Christian Church. Such a tragic loss of a wonderful man.



Lisa Bland-Selix - November 10, 2017 at 05:06 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



November 10, 2017 at 12:15 PM

LM

“ David was a wonderful customer at holdings where I work. Four years David and Sue have come in. I always enjoyed seeing his big smile when he came into the store. Everytime he came in he would ask did you miss me. I always replied well yes I did. We would just start laughing. We always joked around while he was in there checking out. David I sure am going to miss your smiling face. Rest in peace my holdings buddy.

LeeAnn Miller - November 10, 2017 at 11:09 AM

DR

“ Dave has been coming to us in Stillwater for many years to get his FAA Medical Certificate. He was always a joy to have in our home! This Godly man will be greatly missed by us and many others. We lift up thoughts and prayers for the family and friends. Peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.
Dr. Scott and Marva Roach

Dr Scott and Marva Roach - November 10, 2017 at 10:06 AM

MH

“ Matt and Jill Holthoff purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



Matt and Jill Holthoff - November 09, 2017 at 03:42 PM

DL

“ Dr. William Billman, Dr. Jerrell Simmerman, Laurie purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



Dr. William Billman, Dr. Jerrell Simmerman, Laurie - November 09, 2017 at 12:42 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



November 09, 2017 at 12:26 PM

LC

“ *Lori C. purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.*



Lori C. - November 09, 2017 at 12:01 PM

KL

“ *Dear Sue and Family,
Please know my thoughts and prayers are
with all of you. God Bless!
Love, Klista*



Klista Loomis - November 09, 2017 at 10:54 AM

WA

“ *Renee and I first met Dave when he joined the Spittin Kittens. His cheerful demeanor, wacky jokes and upbeat personality always brightened your day. When I was getting ready to retire from the Air Force, Dave asked me what I wanted for a ceremony. I gave him some ideas and he ran with it. I knew it was going to be a very memorable and fantastic event because Dave was spearheading it; It was perfect!! Dave would pop in the office and ask "Whose your Buddy?" Dave was everyone's Buddy! Renee loved talking with Dave at squadron social events, he genuinely took an interest in everyone he met. Our hearts were broken when we heard Dave had passed. Our thought and prayers are with Sue, Zach and the rest of their family and friends. We will miss Dave, but always have the great memories of such a wonderful man and friend.*

Wayne and Renee Andersen - November 09, 2017 at 08:43 AM

HK

“ I worked with Uncle Dave at Vance. Always happy and smiling. enjoyed launching his flights

Howard Kitchen - November 08, 2017 at 09:18 PM

PD

“ Dave will always be a treasured friend to me. His joy and gratitude for his life, family, work, God and flying always amazed me, and he never settled for anything but doing it the right way. So many memories of Dave from Vance and the Spitten Kittens...I'm privileged to have shared many a flight with him, and he was the most meticulous and dedicated pilot I've ever met. He and I talked often of Sue and Zach, music, photography, how to fix my front porch (he figured it out), and how bad our last student pilots flew. Every minute was precious, Dave. Thanks for being my friend, I miss you.

Phil

Phil Doud - November 08, 2017 at 09:00 PM

 Darren Pralle

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Darren Pralle - November 08, 2017 at 04:20 PM



Darren Pralle

I met Dave in 2014 in Oshkosh, WI and he made an instant impression. He was funny, smart, helpful, irreverent, and just a really great guy. He will be truly missed.

Blue skies and tailwinds Dave...

Darren Pralle - November 08, 2017 at 05:25 PM

HN

“Homer & Moiya Nesmith purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



Homer & Moiya Nesmith - November 08, 2017 at 02:27 PM

GW

“The Wilson family is heartbroken over the news of Dave’s death. He, Sue, and Zack were our neighbors for 13 years, and I can’t think of a single Enid memory that doesn’t have a Chael in it. Dave taught me everything I know about woodworking, how to measure and cut a straight line, and too many other things to mention. He was warm, funny, eccentric, and always so upbeat, no matter what was going on. He told the best jokes, gave wonderful hugs, and always lent a helping hand to make sure my do-it-yourself Gabriella projects were successful and actually safe. Our family had an ongoing joke every time I attempted a project and called it “perfect”. They’d ask “is it Dave Chael perfect?” Because if Dave built it or made it, it truly was “perfect”. I’ll always remember Dave in my heart and my mind wearing Kelly Green slacks, a green and blue argyle sweater vest and crazy Christmas print socks at our neighborhood Christmas party. That’s the Dave that will forever stay in my heart, and never, ever be forgotten. ❤️😭

Gabriella Wilson - November 08, 2017 at 02:00 PM

JF

“ I had the opportunity to meet David Chael one time. I had really hoped I would be able to see him "around the patch" to talk about flying again. This is a big loss based on all the things I have learned about David just in the past few hours. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family at this difficult time. Tail Winds, Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael and thank you. ~J~

John C Ford - November 08, 2017 at 01:32 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



November 08, 2017 at 01:19 PM

ML

“ Our hearts are broken. Dave was bright, funny, & caring. Ron always enjoyed his visits to Claremore. We will miss him. Our love and deepest condolences go out to Sue, Zach, & family members.

Meredith Lessley - November 08, 2017 at 01:04 PM

RL

“ Ron and Meredith Lessley purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



Ron and Meredith Lessley - November 08, 2017 at 12:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.*



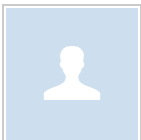
November 08, 2017 at 10:59 AM



“ *We got to know Dave through Sue. Then Dave became a big part of our lives when we hired the "architect Dave" to finish our plans for our house. It was a great relationship! He even made a small replica of our new house for us to see what it would look like. We are so very sad to know that Sue lost the "love of her life" and that Zach lost his Dad. We will cherish our memories and hold Sue and Zach in our prayers and hope God will hold them in the palm of his hand as their broken hearts heal.*

Bill & Janie Word

Bill Word - November 08, 2017 at 09:43 AM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.*



November 08, 2017 at 08:43 AM

JL

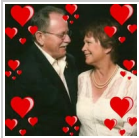
“ I got to know Dave while employed for LSI for 16 years at the simulator dispatch desk. He had that smile and sense of humor that would light up the room. All the student pilots that flew with him learned from the best and they all loved him. He would frequently talk about how proud he was of his family. I will never forget Dave. My thoughts and prayers go to his family and all that knew him.

Julie Larimer-Conley - November 08, 2017 at 06:04 AM

DH

“ I've had the great pleasure and honor of working with "Super Dave" the last 9 months on the property committee at Central Christian Church. I have never met a man so talented, so enthusiastic, so multitasking, so "git er dun", and so much fun !! He will be sorely missed....Prayers to Sue and family.

Darrell Herndon - November 08, 2017 at 05:37 AM



“ I remember Dave, and worked with him when he was Community Planner at Vance AFB. A special person with a contagious smile and sense of humor. Prayers to his family. Patricia "Mandy" Tanner



Patricia Tanner - November 07, 2017 at 11:26 PM

BP

“ Dave will be missed by us. We drew our house plans on a legal pad 22 years ago and Dave is the one who put our home into scale and made us a 3D form of our house that we still live in today So very talented. Our prayers are with his family

Barry & Roxanne Pollard - November 07, 2017 at 10:18 PM

TL

“ I met Uncle Dave as his instructor when he was drawing perfect freehand circles to the amazement of his T-38 UPT classmates. He said his age may have been the reason for the nickname “Uncle”. Our paths continued to cross several times over three decades with both of us ultimately returning to Enid the hometown of our respective spouses. In all my years around aviation I can honestly say I never met many pilots more enthusiastic about flying than Uncle Dave.

To Sue and family ,thank you for sharing Dave with us: Isaiah 40:31
Pat and Lt. Col. Thomas L. “TC” Lentz(ret)

tom lentz - November 07, 2017 at 09:55 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



November 07, 2017 at 09:40 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



November 07, 2017 at 08:04 PM

DH

“ Our hearts are broken for Sue and Zach and the rest of the family, Dave was a wonderful guy with an infectious laugh, he will be missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Ted & Denise Hurley

Denise Hurley - November 07, 2017 at 07:59 PM

JJ

“ Dave was always very nice to me and helped me become a better pilot. john jameson

john jameson - November 07, 2017 at 07:41 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.



November 07, 2017 at 07:38 PM

“Where do I begin? It's impossible to summarize a lifetime so I can only recap the beginning and the end. In between I am leaving out so much that is cherished - wives, kids, camping trips, laughing - lots of laughing. Though our careers took us in different directions we always remained close. While we mostly lived far apart, every time we spoke it was as if we had been together just yesterday.

I met Dave 40 years ago in Dale Bryant's Architectural Design 1 class at Kansas State. The first day of class I had already picked a drawing table to call my own when a blonde kid from Kansas City claimed the empty one beside me and introduced himself. I was a shy 20 year-old and I suppose that it was purely by chance that Dave landed by my side, but he instantly made me feel as if we had been friends all our lives. That was but one of Dave's special gifts. It didn't ever matter who he was talking to, how long he had known them or even if he had just met them - Dave always spoke well, listened intently, and genuinely cared about what they had to say. He had a natural and intense curiosity about everything, a childlike sense of wonder, and a real love of people.

I last saw Dave just recently - in mid-October. We took a trip together back to Manhattan for the dedication ceremony of the new addition and remodeling of Seaton Hall - the place where we met such a long time ago. For a day and a half we revisited everything and everywhere - the campus, the new Weigel Library, Tuttle Lake, Aggieville - and the memories came pouring back. We both marveled at how so much had changed, but that it all still felt exactly the same. And everywhere we went we met people, some familiar but mostly strangers, and Dave would smile, ask questions and make them feel like the most important person in the room.

Dave was as good a friend as anyone on this Earth could ask for. I will miss him greatly.

Randy Kietzman

Randy Kietzman - November 07, 2017 at 07:30 PM



Randy, your middle paragraph sums him up perfectly!!!

Frank Molnar Jr. - November 12, 2017 at 02:23 PM

PM

“ *Phil & Dawn Marshall purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.*



Phil & Dawn Marshall - November 07, 2017 at 06:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lt. Col (Ret) David T. Chael.*



November 07, 2017 at 05:23 PM

JB

“ *I remember Dave, Sue and myself at one of the EHS Big Blue Band competitions. At the end, while the band's are lining up, the drum line was performing. I remember us having the best time interacting with the drum line. It was always a nice thing running into Dave, he was always so friendly and kind.*

Jackie Burris - November 07, 2017 at 04:30 PM

JR

“ I new "Uncle Dave" as a new Student pilot transitioning to the T-38s from the T-37s. Then staying at Vance AFB as a Instructor Pilot "FAIP". Evan though I was a enlisted he treated me and all as equals. I saw him go onto fly the C-141s at McChord AFB, Washington. We lost touch but gat back together after my retirement. I was proud to see how Dave had matured and to see his FINI Taxi around Vance runways due to the visibility. I will always have a place in my heart for Dave. I believe that Dave is in heaven given Jesus flying lessons.

Jerry L. Rose TSgt Ret, - November 07, 2017 at 04:16 PM