



Jay "Coach" Neely Mitchell, Col. USAF Ret.

January 1, 1937 - September 14, 2013

Jay "Coach" Neely Mitchell, Col. USAF Ret.

January 1, 1937 – September 14, 2013

Jay Neely Mitchell Col. USAF Ret., known by his USAF Pilot call sign "Coach", went home to the Lord on Saturday, September 14, 2013, surrounded by his loving family. Born January 1, 1937, Coach was raised on a cattle ranch just outside Artesia, New Mexico. He graduated from Artesia High School Class of 1955, and was a member of the inaugural graduating class of the United States Air Force Academy in 1959. While at the Air Force Academy, Coach was involved in a variety of activities, including lightweight division boxing. He was a talented pianist and was blessed with a rich baritone singing voice, and he used those gifts to help form the academy's Cadet Chorale. From there, he served in the USAF as a test pilot as well as a Vietnam War fighter pilot, who served several tours overseas. He married Virginia Scott in March of 1961. They had three children together, and upon his retirement from the Air Force in June of 1986, settled in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After his retirement, Coach was able to focus on his love of woodworking, and opened up MitchCraft Enterprises Custom Cabinets and Furniture, which kept him busy until early 2005. After Virginia's death in October 2000, Coach was lucky enough to find love and happiness again with Barbara Smith, whom he married in June of 2004. Preceding him in death are his parents, JT & Ollidean Mitchell, a brother, Jim Mitchell, and sister, Sandra Mitchell, as well as his first wife, Virginia S. Mitchell. He is survived by his

second wife, Barbara Mitchell, of Albuquerque, NM, his children, Michael (Tiina) Mitchell of Mesa, AZ, Sue Judd of Albuquerque, NM, and Margo (Travis) Williams, of Wasilla, AK, and grandchildren Charles (Rachael) Mitchell, Teresa (Brandon) Shambaugh, Katherine (Leonard) Shapiro, Davin Mitchell, Amanda Poe, Allie Poe, and five great-grandchildren. Coach is loved and will be missed by many. His life was an example to all who knew him.

Tribute Wall

DE

“ *This man was very nice to me.beer? He said, " Honey..again" My mother(His wife) said yelled HONNEY? as he cut another finger off using his table saw. I will never that day. He asked for Bourbon while there was blood everywhere. Me and my mom used napkins and duct tape. 15...whatever lona lane. He was kind of a mean man, my mother loved him, and I miss him.*

DEREK
I love you Barbara



derek - August 14, 2014 at 03:57 AM

AG

“ *Alyssa Giron lit a candle in memory of Jay "Coach" Neely Mitchell, Col. USAF Ret.*



Alyssa Giron - September 18, 2013 at 01:01 PM

EL

“ *Evelyn Lujan lit a candle in memory of Jay "Coach" Neely Mitchell, Col. USAF Ret.*



Evelyn Lujan - September 18, 2013 at 12:58 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Jay "Coach" Neely Mitchell, Col. USAF Ret..*



September 18, 2013 at 12:21 PM



“ *To The Family of Coach, all my prayers are with you. I so understand the loss you are dealing with. I only meet Coach once, but the man I meet was wonderful. God Bless all of you. Nettie*

nettie - September 17, 2013 at 09:33 PM



“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*

Faith Miner - September 17, 2013 at 04:38 PM