



The sad news that former Continental/United Captain Mike Hampton has flown West was received from Golden Eagles member Sharyn Finnegan. The Golden Eagles sends condolences to Captain Hampton`s family for their unfortunate loss. Rest in peace Captain, and Godspeed on your final flight West.



Captain Michael Dean Hampton

September 25, 1944 - November 26, 2023

Michael Hampton Obituary

Michael Dean Hampton, 79, passed away on the evening of Sunday, Nov. 26, in Houston, Texas, after a protracted battle with Parkinson's Disease. Michael, the son of (Maurice) Dean and Mary Hampton of Bolivar was born on Sept. 25, 1944, in England. His father and mother were both serving the British war effort at Duxford Air Base in Cambridgeshire, Dean with the United States Army Air Corps, and Mary with the Royal Air Force. Dean returned home to Bolivar, following the war, and Mary and Michael joined him several months later aboard the venerable Queen Mary.

Friends joke that Michael came into this world as a 'Piper Cub'. He wasn't just bitten by the flying bug, aviation was his life's blood. As a child, he drew pictures of airplanes, constructed models, and buzzed around like he was an airplane. Michael was logging airtime in private aircraft with his school chum Monte Zumbun long before he obtained his driver's license.

After graduating from Bolivar High School, Michael immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served with distinction aboard The U.S.S. Forrestal supercarrier during the Vietnam era; however, he was not able to fly during his service because he was not an officer. Returning from the Navy, Michael worked toward a goal of logging enough flight hours to qualify for a commercial pilot certificate with instrument rating which would be the first step to employment with an airline. He accomplished this by directing every dime he earned toward renting aircraft to achieve a threshold of the required minimum of 250 hours. He flew freight aircraft until earning his jet qualification and going to work for LTV in Dallas where he piloted Lear Jets. Next, he became a pilot for Frontier Airlines where he eventually earned Captain status.

Several years later when Frontier Airlines dissolved, he joined Continental Airlines (later United Airlines) where he served as Captain until he retired at 62. Michael was undoubtedly one of only a handful of pilots who ever became an airline captain without going to college or flying in the military. His pure tenacity and love of flying conquered every challenge. His flying is now unhampered by an altitude barrier.

Michael was preceded in death by his wife Arlene, and his parents Dean and Mary Hampton. He is survived by his daughter Lisa Ashabranner her husband Don, and their children Vivian, Audrey, and Max; his sister Linda Vanderbilt and husband Denny of Oklahoma City, David and wife Terri of Springfield, Dennis

and wife Kathy of Cleveland, Brenda Cloyd and husband Derral of Bolivar, and Phillip of Cassville, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at Meyers Northland Chapel in Parkville, MO. The funeral service will commence at 2 p.m. at the chapel. A Committal Service with military honors will be at 11 a.m., Monday, Dec. 18, at White Chapel Cemetery in Gladstone. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to [The Michael J. Fox Foundation](https://www.michaeljfox.org/), <https://www.michaeljfox.org/> or [The Parkinson's Foundation](https://www.parkinson.org/), <https://www.parkinson.org/>. Memories of Michael and condolences to the family may be shared at [meyersfuneralchapel.com](https://www.meyersfuneralchapel.com)

Published by Bolivar Herald-Free Press from Dec. 5 to Dec. 6, 2023.



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