

David Newell <davebnewell@gmail.com>

1/6/17 Reply

Golden Eagles member Gordon Harper has provided the sad news that former Continental pilot Dave Slater has taken his last flight West. Posted below is a letter from Dave`s wife Patty with the details.

The Golden Eagles sends its condolences to Dave`s family and wishes him Godspeed on his final flight West.

Dave was not a Golden Eagles member, but this notice is being sent to our members as a courtesy to those who may have known and flown with him during their career.

Dave Newell

Golden Eagles Email Liaison

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gordon** <gsharper@earthlink.net>

Date: Fri, Jan 6, 2017 at 2:29 PM

Subject: Fw: Passing of David Slater

To: Dave Newell <davebnewell@gmail.com>

Friends,

I'm sorry to do a group email, but so much on my plate right now and went through his address book. I just wanted to let you know.

Sad news from here. David passed away suddenly December 23rd. He did have advancing dementia and Stage 4 throat and neck cancer that had metastasized since his episodes in 2011 & 2012. I still feel it was Agent Orange that gave him the cancer since he was in Vietnam and also ferried the planes that were doing the spraying. After a couple of years of paperwork and exams, they said it was the "wrong" kind of cancer! Denied!

He was doing "okay" for him at around 8am and we were expecting Jamie our daughter to arrive here about 9:30-10am with her new "Mr. Right". She wanted to do it while David still remembered her. He was smiling when I told them they were in the car and would be here around 10am. He calmly complained that he was beginning to have some difficulty breathing.

I called Hospice which he had been a part of for almost 3 months. They came asap and we were going to admit him to Hospice Hospital. However, his breathing issues became serious and after several of doses of morphine to comfort him, he passed away about 2:15pm. Jamie and I were able to say our good byes and express our love and give him comfort during his last few hours. I was in shock at the swiftness of his death.

He didn't know he was home, thought I was his ex-wife, etc. He is at peace now, it is just difficult for those of us left behind. It is a blessing for him, and for those that loved him to not have to continue to watch him suffer with so much confusion. Thank goodness he had no pain.

We are having a Memorial on his birthday, February 16th, 11am at Bushnell, Fl, which is a National Veterans Cemetery. It is going to be with full honors with a 21gun salute. With two Distinguished Flying Crosses and 7 Air Medals, I am so pleased he will get the tribute he deserves, which is being provided by The American Legion. Afterwards we will have a "party"/open house. David always liked a good party.

He valued all your friendships over the years. If I missed anyone, would you please pass on the news. Thank you!

Patty Slater,
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