



Golden Eagles member Captain Bill Beno has provided this obituary for recently deceased Continental Captain Jack Sherer.

Services and Obituary

Journal Entry by Tara Sherer

Services for Jack will be conducted at Rosewood Funeral Home (Atascocita) on February 28, 2022 at 10:00 am. He will be buried at The National Cemetery of Houston.

Obituary – Jack Hurt Sherer

Written by Jack's oldest son, Rustyn

Jack Hurt Sherer, son to Emily and “Big” Jack Sherer passed away peacefully with Tara at his side, on February 10th, 2022 at the age of 75.

Born from humble beginnings in Selma, AL, on September 24, 1946, Jack attended Selma H.S.; First Presbyterian Church; and later the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. A “Roll Tide” household was a mantra from his childhood and throughout his life.

first year of Law School at Alabama. Knowing his draft number for the Vietnam War would be called, during his college days Jack also enlisted in the U.S. Air Force ROTC Program. He left law school voluntarily in 1970, was commissioned as an Air Force Officer, and selected for pilot training. He was dispatched to Moody, AFB in Valdosta, GA where he began his military service.

Jack excelled in the Air Force, earning the title “Top Gun” (long before the term was popularized by Hollywood); and graduated number one in his pilot training class. While in GA, Jack met his first wife, with whom he would spend 9 years and share a son. He also served two tours in Vietnam, in 1972 and 1973, flying more than 150 combat missions and earning two distinguished Flying Crosses for his meritorious conduct. A lifelong learner, Jack also earned a Master’s degree from Ball State University during this decade.

In 1980, Jack moved to Montgomery, AL for Officer Command School. Jack accelerated through the program and on to his next promotion. He also married his final life partner, Tara Dickinson Sherer in Montgomery in August 1983.

Their next move was to Norfolk, VA where Tara and Jack welcomed their first son, before moving again, this time to Tampa, FL for more flight training; and then finally to his last duty assignment in Layton, UT. In Layton, Jack and Tara had a second son, and Jack finished his military career. He retired with 20 years of honorable service to our nation; flew 5 different fighter airframes; and accumulated 3,146.9 hours of total flight time as a pilot.

Being “retired” at age 42, though, just wasn’t an option for Jack. With a world of opportunity in front of him, and a mindset to relentlessly keep climbing, Jack elected to continue in the flying business, landing a job with Continental Airlines in 1993. Flying as a pilot/engineer (3rd in command in the cockpit) aboard 727 aircraft, the company quickly realized the value of his experience and Jack was offered a position to instruct new pilots at the flight simulator facility at one of the airline’s hubs in Houston, TX.

The Sherer family would leave UT in 1995, and move into their current residence in Atascocita, TX. Jack and Tara designed a home that would become the “fambly” compound. Living on a golf course, Jack would complete one of his lifelong ambitions.

He continued moving up at Continental (now United Airlines) too, flying larger airplanes, traveling internationally, and rising to the rank of Captain just months before his official, mandatory-company retirement at age 60. Aside from work, in TX Jack watched his two younger sons graduate high school; volunteered as

On October 31, 2009, Jack suffered a debilitating stroke. Without any hereditary history, or previously identified symptoms, a truly rare event occurred, changing Jack's life, and our family dynamics. Never a smoker or overweight, and rarely a man with a drink in his hand, many would argue that Jack survived his event because of his excellent physical condition. For those of us closest to him, we know otherwise. Jack came back from a traumatic brain injury for us, to be with us. He came back to watch us evolve; to provide guidance and emotional support; and to remind us that the human spirit and personal will is more profound than we realize.

Jack was a man of faith; a dedicated family man; a lover of food, friends, football, and social gatherings. He was a self-taught cook; an avid reader, truly appreciative of the written word; a 50-year golfer who understood the game; a fearless snow skier; an early technology adopter; a prudent, long-term investor; a natural leader; a happy competitor; an expert airplane pilot; and an authentic man in his thoughts, actions and opinions.

He was blessed with a high IQ and believed in maximizing the value of his time in every day. He adopted and maintained a "positive mental attitude," something he would often say is, "the right approach to life." He defined success for himself; accepted failure and adversity as teachers of truth; and was loyal to his belief system and his trusted confidants. Ultimately, he was ever-hopeful that his family would love and accept him. For us, that has never been in doubt. He was loved. He is missed. He will be remembered. And, his lessons, "voice," and unique traditions are, and will be passed on to others.

Jack is survived by his wife and primary caregiver Tara Sherer; sons Rustyn, Fielding and Jackson; grandson Hayden; brothers Steve and Paul; loving nieces and nephews and their families; extended family members; friends; and wonderful caregivers. He joins his parents, elder sister Patty and niece Sherer "upstairs."



Captain Jack Sherer

September 24, 1946 - February 10, 2022



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