



As an addendum to the previously issued brief Gone West notice for Captain Rich Rittenhouse, the following obituary is issued to provide our members with more details regarding his passing and his life history.



Captain Richard Paul Rittenhouse

July 27, 1952 - June 5, 2024

Richard Paul Rittenhouse, age 71, passed away on June 5, 2024 at home in Caldwell, Idaho.

Born on 7/27/1952 in San Gabriel, CA, Rich was destined to fly. His love of airplanes was apparent from a very young age and his dream to fly was realized when Rich earned his Private Pilot's License at Riverside Airport in CA during his senior year of high school. Rich graduated from Perris Union High School in 1970 and enlisted in the Air Force Reserve at March Air Force Base in CA. After 6 years he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Rich attended Mt. San Antonio Jr College in Walnut, CA, earning an Associate of Arts degree in Commercial Aviation. He then graduated in 1976 from Metropolitan State College in Denver, CO with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Science. Concurrently, he was accepted into the ROTC program at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He received a Commission as an Officer in the US Air Force in 1976 with a rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Rich attended the USAF Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1977, flying the Cessna T-37 and the Northrop T-38. In 1978, Rich joined the 303rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at March AFB. He flew the HC-130H in Worldwide Air-Sea Rescue missions and later flew the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Mission (MAFFS) in the C-130E. Rich retired with a rank of Major after over 20 years of Military Service.

1984 had Rich joining Continental Airlines, flying the Boeing-727 and the Boeing-737. He earned the rank of Airline Captain and retired in 2014 with 30 years of airline service. His combined flying hours, military and civilian, totaled over 30,000.

After retirement, Rich's soul still yearned for the sky. He enjoyed flying his pristine Cessna Cardinal RG and sometimes just hanging out at his hangar at Caldwell Airport. He was a true outdoorsman as well, and with some of his favorite people by his side, he relished hunting, fishing, golfing and spending time at the shooting range. His warmth, laughter and the memories created during these special times will be treasured and remembered by all.

The legacy Rich leaves is one of service, dedication to loved ones, generosity to all and the enduring bonds of friendship. Rich is preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Nancy Rittenhouse and nephew Colton Rittenhouse. Left to cherish the memory of Rich are: his life partner, June Sukasem, his brothers, Mike (Linda) Rittenhouse, Dan (Becky) Rittenhouse, Phil (Lisa) Rittenhouse, Don (Lisa) Rittenhouse and a sister, Patricia (Tim) Daughdrill.

He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunt, and cherished friends.

A private service will be held at Idaho Veterans State Cemetery and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date to honor this amazing life.

Soar in peace, Dear Brother.



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