



Gregory George Bombinski

July 13, 1950 - July 17, 2020

Clear Lake, IA - Gregory George Bombinski, 70, Clear Lake, IA, died Friday, July 17, 2020 at the Westview Care Center, Britt, IA.

The family is planning a private gathering to Celebrate his life, 9:30 am Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at PM Park South Shore Drive, Clear Lake.

Memorials may be given to Disabled American Veterans at <https://www.dav.org/>

Gregory was born July 13, 1950 in Chicago, Ill, the son of George and Rosalie (Smith) Bombinski. He graduated from West Leyden High School in Northlake IL in 1968 and Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA in 1972. He received his Masters from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

While at Grinnell, Greg met Lynne Hayward of Mason City, IA, and they were married August 21, 1971 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City, IA just prior to their senior year at Grinnell.

Greg participated in the ROTC program while at Grinnell and joined the Air Force after graduation. The couple traveled across country to Arizona where Greg signed in for duty at Williams Air Force Base, outside Chandler, AZ. WAFB was home to one of several military flight schools and Greg earned his wings the following summer of 1973 and reported to F-4 RTU at Luke Air Force base in Glendale, AZ to begin a long and remarkable career as a fighter pilot. During his 20 years with the AF, Greg flew F-4's, F-5's, and F-16's. He excelled at flying and earned numerous awards. The family enjoyed tours in Germany, Spain, the southwestern desert and Oregon. He always felt blessed that his career let him do something he loved as much as flying.

After flying fighter aircraft for 20 years, Greg retired from the AF and retrained in the Boeing 737. Greg was hired by Southwest Airlines and began his 22 year career with the airline in April of 1993, retiring in July of 2015. He often said it was like winning the lottery, he felt so lucky. The family moved to the Phoenix area where he was domiciled. In 2006, they purchased a summer home in Clear Lake, IA and became "snow birds." They enjoyed winters in AZ and summers in IA until 2017 when owning 2 homes became more than they wanted to manage. They moved to their Clear Lake home on a year round basis. Greg's excelled at and enjoyed things other than flying: fishing of any kind, elk hunting, camping, horseback riding, and sports. Greg lettered in basketball both in high school and

college playing varsity as a freshman at Grinnell. He played doubles tennis at the state level in high school. At Grinnell Greg also enjoyed playing football and ran track. Later, he took up horseback riding showing, attending riding clinics, and assisting with organizing riding clinics for friends in AZ. His favorite was camping and riding the trails at Lily Glen and along the coast in OR, or just trail riding at Lime Creek Nature Center in IA.

Summer almost always included trips back to Clear Lake, Iowa to visit Lynne's family, and their 2 sons often referred to Clear Lake as home while moving from base to base in the military. The Bombinski family also took advantage of opportunities provided by the military and Southwest Airlines to travel extensively. While in the military they traveled throughout Germany and central Europe, extended travels to parts of Spain and the Mediterranean coast, skied Austria and France, and toured England. While stateside, they particularly enjoyed visiting family in the Pacific Northwest where Greg was introduced to Salmon and Steel Head fishing. After beginning his career with Southwest Airlines, Greg's greatest joy, his happy place, was Hawaii, and the family enjoyed many wonderful vacations there alternating between Maui and Kauai. Greg's "swan song" of vacations was a cruise to Alaska. And, yes, he went fishing.

Greg and Lynne were active members of their church during every assignment. Most recently they enjoyed worshiping with their sons family at Community of Grace Lutheran Church in Peoria, AZ where Lynne still maintain membership.

Greg is survived by his wife Lynne (Hayward) Bombinski, Clear Lake, IA; sons John (Amanda) Bombinski of Glendale Arizona, and James Bombinski of Clear Lake, IA.

Surviving grandchildren include Taylor, Colton and Izabella Bombinski and great granddaughter Paisley Grace Bombinski of Glendale, AZ, and granddaughter Ashlynn Bombinski of Waddell, AZ.

Surviving family members include his brother Michael (Cecilia) Bombinski of Lakeland, FL and their sons Michael II, DJ, and Bryson also of FL; his sister Linda (Bombinski) Abruzzini and husband Michael Abruzzini of Barrington, IL and their daughters Gina and Christina also of IL.; and brother-in-law's Bill Marks of Ft Lauderdale, FL, Stephen (Monica) Hayward of Sun City, AZ and Al (Becky) Hayward of Mason City, IA.

Sadly, Greg was preceded in death by his parents and two siblings: sister Jeanne (Bombinski) Marks and brother Philip Bombinski; mother-in-law Dee (Woodward) Hayward and father-in-law John V. Hayward of Clear Lake and brother-in-law John A. Hayward.

Ward-Van Slyke Colonial Chapels, 101 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA 50428 (641)357-2193
ColonialChapels.com

Events

AUG **Celebration of Life** 09:30AM

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PM Park

15297 Raney Dr, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

Comments



“ Fond memories of our F-4 time together in Germany. Were we really that young? Twenty years later we spend 20 years with SWA! Who'd have thunk it?? Rest In Peace Bomber. God bless, Lynne and family.

Gary Kopren
USAF LTC Ret
SWA Capt Ret

Gary Kopren - August 05 at 07:41 PM



“ Lynne, Judith and I fondly remember you and Bomber during our time together at Willy in the F-5. I had the pleasure of being Bomber's IP in his upgrade to the Fighter Weapons Instructors Course. He was an excellent pilot (being selected for the FWIC was an honor) and he had a terrific sense of humor. We seldom laughed so hard as when Bomber was around. May God bless you and your family with the many wonderful memories of your life together.

John "Rats" Rastl
LTC USAF (Ret)

John Rastl - August 01 at 03:32 PM



“ Flew with Bomber at SWA several times. Excellent pilot and great guy, Bomber always had a smile and a firm handshake for a fellow fighter pilot. Hard to believe he has left us, but I will always smile and have enjoyable memories when I think of his life. What more could you ask for in life then to leave them smiling! God bless your family!

Denny Granquist
USAF LTC ret.
SWA Captain ret.

Denny Granquist - July 31 at 09:10 PM