



Selden Hickenlooper

April 23, 1919 - May 11, 2005

Memorial services to celebrate the life of Selden Blakemore Hickenlooper, 86, Tyler, will be held 2:00 P. M., Wednesday, May 18, 2005, at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., south Tyler with Brother Lou Thomas officiating. Burial will be in Las Vegas, Nevada at a later date. Mr. Hickenlooper passed away after living a full life Wednesday, May 11, 2005 in Tyler. He was born to George Centennial and Amy Preston Hickenlooper on April 23, 1919 near Miles City, Montana. Raised on a farm close to Blockton, Iowa, he graduated from high school in 1936 during the devastation of the depression and drought. In 1939 he migrated as many of the unemployed did to Los Angeles, California where he was employed by Vultee Aircraft , maker of the BT-13. Later he was allowed to relocate from California to Omaha, Nebraska and Offcut Air Force Base to work on the Martin B-26 and be close to his mother who was struck with cancer. Watching the air craft take to the air every day created a desire to fly these beasts of burden. He joined the ranks of the Aviation Cadets and was called to duty on January 2, 1943 assigned to the San Antonio Aviation Classification Center. There he was designated to be a pilot, class 43-K. During his training, he had a run of illnesses including scarlet fever, Appendicitis, and pneumonia. Enduring the illness, he completed flight training and graduated from twin engine advanced at Lubbock, Texas as a 2nd Lt. on April 15, 1944. He received his Commission at 10:00 a.m., his wings at 11:00 a.m., and a wife at 12:00 p.m. He was sent to Japan with the occupation forces flying C-47s and C-46s until December 1949. Then in

Korea, he was assigned to 18th Fighter Bomber Wing, 12th Fighter Bomber Squadron known as "THE FOXEY FEW", where he flew the P-51 for 72 missions. He then went on to K-14 at Seoul and the 45th Tac. Recon. Squadron where he flew the F-86, the F-51, and the F-80 for an additional 28 missions totaling 100 missions. He was awarded one Air Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster and the Distinguished Flying Cross. After combat he became an air to air and air to ground combat instructor at Laughlin Air Force Base. He was released from active duty on October 15, 1953 as part of the military downsize after the Korean conflict. He and his wife moved to Las Vegas, Nevada and reported to Nellis Air Force Base where he would have the chance to fly the F-86, the F-80, and the T-33. He was assigned to Smiley Burnett's Thunderbird training squadron for 2 years before he retired from the USAFR in 1958. He attended the University of Las Vegas and graduated in 1967 at the age of 47 with a double major in Mathematics and Economics. He taught at Garside Junior High School for fifteen years while earning a Masters Degree in Real Estate Development. He then taught at Valley High School for 5 years. He then bought, sold, and resold burn-out and damaged houses as a Real Estate Broker until he retired in 1988. In 1990 he joined the Civil Air Patrol in Tyler, Texas as a Major. He served as Finance Officer of the Longview Squadron for 3 years, and Group 7 Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Officer. He later attended Staff and Command College at Albuquerque, New Mexico and became a Lt. Col. As a member of Sharon Shrine Temple, Quiet Birdman (Pilots) Association, Royal Order of Jesters Court #168, Eastern Star Masonic Lodge #1233, and Lanes Chapel United Methodist Church, he will be remembered as a dedicated servant to country and community. His family will remember him as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 54 years, Jeanette Hickenlooper in 1999. His surviving family includes his wife of 6 years, Yvonne Hickenlooper of Tyler; daughter, Sherri Oliver and husband, Reece, of Valley Springs, California.; grandson, David Oliver and great-grandson, Zachary Oliver. Memorials in honor of Mr. Hickenlooper's

life may be made to Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, 3100 Samford Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71103.

Tribute Wall

AU

“ I remember Mr. Hickenlooper quite fondly as my Jr. High math teacher at Garside back in the mid-70's....RIP Mr. Hickenlooper, what you taught me, I never forgot.

Anthony Ursini - June 15, 2025 at 08:58 PM

KS

“ Yvonne:
We are so sorry to hear about your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.
We Love You
Ken and Ruth Ann

Ken and Ruth Ann Solomon - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ We want to express our sympathies to Yvonne. Hick was the best neighbor in the entire neighborhood. He was our friend. We will miss him.

Jennifer & Andy Tinnen - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I am so sorry to hear about your loss. You are in my prayers.

Mary Callen - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Seldon "Hick" Hickenlooper was our dearest friend for many many years. We treasured the truest of friendship with him and have such fond memories of Hick. Not only was he our friend but he was our neighbor for a very long time. We are so sad he is gone and will miss him terribly.

Scott & Nancy Kelly - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ I HAD THE PLEASURE OF KNOWING MR.HICKENLOOPER FOR 30 YEARS.HE WAS TRULY A DEAR FRIEND.AND HE WILL BE TRULY MISSED.MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU YVONNE AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY.

ELAINE HENDERSON - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

LV

“ Mr. Hickenlooper showed us what a great country the United States is and what a warm, good-hearted and spirited people Americans are.
He introduced us to the different joys of life and to the beautiful art of flying.
He enlivened personal and historical memories with his countless and ever so interesting stories and adventures.
Above all we remember him as a courageous, warm and very generous human being. We will always remember him and we will keep him and his stories alive for our children. We will miss him and we will never forget him.

Lieven, Marieke, Paul, Siemon and Hannah Vrijdags

Lieven en Marieke Vrijdags - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ I knew Selden as Uncle Hick. My good and long time Friend (Frank Johnson) spoke of his Uncle Hick for years. I finally had the pleasure to meet Uncle Hick 2 yrs. ago at Nancy Johnson's (Franks wife) graduation party where Uncle Hick and his wife attended. It was a pleasure finally meeting him. Since then I've been e-mailing Uncle Hick on a regular basis.

Our thought are with you in this time of sorrow. Regards to family and friends.

Tim Ochsner

Tim Ochsner - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ I met Hick not very many years ago as the great-uncle of my son-in-law, Frank Johnson. He has been as close to that family as any of their elders, and my daughter and I were so pleased to have him and Yvonne at her graduation last year. Frank, Nancy, Paige and Hunter will miss Hick - I wish I could have known him better.

Sue Cunningham - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ Hick was so full of life, so energetic and vital, that even now, after his more than eight decades of being a character and living life to the fullest, it's hard to believe that he is gone. He will live on in our minds, will be remembered both with sadness, because time has taken him away from us, and with a smile, for who he was.

Helen Hope and Glenn Meyer - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ My deepest sympathies during this difficult time. Selden was a great man who touched the lives of those who knew him.

Christa Benoit Fey - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *What do you say about a guy that tried it all. Hick led a very active and eventful life. As his cousin I spent many hours enjoying his company but they were not enough. I will always treasure his friendship and the special gift he gave me at my Installation as Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge. I know he is out of his pain and shaking now and that he is most likely trying to find an airplane someplace to try and fly. Go with God my cousin, Go with God.*

Rusty Gilmore - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *A VERY SPECIAL MAN TOUCHED OUR HEARTS FOREVER AND WILL BE MISSED.
WE THINK OF HIM AS FAMILY.
WE LOVE HIM
AND TREASURE THE TIMES WE HAD . HE WILL FOREVER BE WITH US.*

David and Fay Hines - May 11, 2005 at 12:00 AM