



Richard Craig Bradley

DEC 14, 1946 - SEP 7, 2018



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Richard Craig Bradley

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Richard Craig Bradley was born and raised in Auburn, New York and resided in Fox Island WA passed away peacefully at the age of 71. He was resting comfortably at his home surrounded by friends and family. He is survived by his wife Barbara Bradley (Chapman), son Richard Scott Bradley, daughter in law Meghan Bradley (Schliem), sister Barb Freyer (Bradley) and his grandchildren Madison and Benjamin Bradley , niece Sarah Murphy (Freyer) and several other nieces and nephews

Dick was an army aviator for 24 years including two tours in Vietnam. He received multiple medals including the bronze star. Dick lived to fly. The aviation bug hit him early, he earned his private pilots license at age 17. As the Vietnam War raged and his college career ended, he joined the U.S. Army and went to flight school at Mineral Wells , Texas then on to Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia He served 12 years on active duty and 12 years with the Washington State National Guard. He retired at the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 in 1990.

In January 1979 Dick was hired by a small airline named Alaska Airlines. He began his civilian career as an engineer on the Boeing 727. He quickly gained experience and checked out as a Captain 4 short years later. He flew for a total of 28 years for Alaska Airlines on the B-727, MD-80 and retiring on the Boeing 737. His retirement flight was with Scott as his first officer.

Dick also was a member of the Quiet Birdmen. He cared deeply for his fellow members and enjoyed his time spent volunteering as their governor and traveling to the annual convention on behalf of his QB brothers.

His parents, Willis Craig Bradley and Helen Bradley (Van Riper), his sister Cassandra Bradley, and his oldest son Jeffery Craig Bradley preceded Dick to Heaven.



Obituary

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Dick had a reputation as being easy going. He always had a good joke and was first to pay the tab on a layover. He was well known for taking care of his crew, both on and off the airplane. He was a smooth pilot and a great instructor. He closed his logbook with over 32,000 hours of safe flying.

Richard Craig Bradley will always be remembered fondly by his family, friends and crew.

Captain Bradley, Speed and Altitude your discretion, you are cleared for any approach, cleared to land in Heaven. Godspeed

A celebration of his life will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2-3:30 pm at Mountain View Memorial Park in the celebration of life center. 4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW. Lakewood, WA 98499.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations for local cancer care and research to South Sound Care Foundation, P.O. Box 1314 Tacoma, WA 98401-1314 or southsoundcarefoundation.org




Events


Richard Craig Bradley

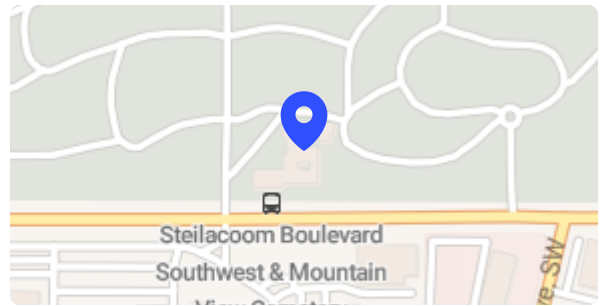
DEC 14, 1946 - SEP 7, 2018

Chapel Service


 **Thursday**, September 13, 2018

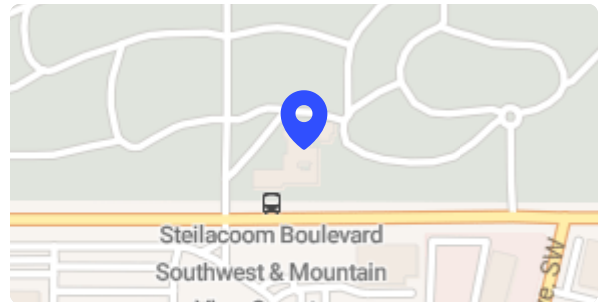
 2:00 PM PT

 **Aspen Chapel**
Mt. View Funeral Home and Memorial Park,
Lakewood WA 98499



Cemetery Details

 **Mountain View Memorial Park**
4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood WA 98499





Tribute Wall

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Steve Hutchison posted:

It's time. In the universe we are the blink of an eye, the single flap of a butterfly wing. Did we miss it? Or did we live every day to the utmost? I think Dick would want us to do that. I knew Dick for 39 years, 7 months and a few days. Too few, but I know I'll fly with him again. Who was this guy walking into our first day of new hire class at Alaska Airlines? After being briefed by Vivian, the Chief Pilot's secretary, somebody said "now we know who really runs this company". I'm pretty sure that was Dick. We trained together on the 727, coaching and quizzing each other. Somehow we made it through our one year probation, although some didn't. Through line flying, more study for upgrades, family adventures and vacations. flying as young captains on the 727, training together again in Long Beach to be captains of the MD83's we met the challenges. Some challenges were not welcome and we grieved together when Jeff was lost. Dick, Barbara, and Scott had obviously been made of strong stuff, and demonstrated the courage I'm trying to show now. Survival is about loving, learning, forgiving, and although I missed sending Dick a few birthday cards on time, he forgave me. Only Dick could have talked me into an interview for a job in Mumbai India. We caught a taxi from the airport, the driver cut through an alley only to be confronted by two water buffalo grazing on scraps from the restaurants. We flew the worst simulator check at two in the morning, but they hired us anyway. I took the job, but Dick declined, though he never failed to ask "hows it going" when I came home on days off. He cared. He truly cared about family and all the friends and people he knew. I missed him then, I miss him now, but I know I'll fly with him again.

September 13 at 6:41 AM



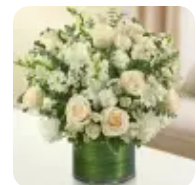
Jamie Johnson posted:

Mr. Bradley, as I always called him, was a part of my life from the very beginning. 41 years. A constant comfort through out my life. He gave me my first flying lesson. He had high expectations and asked the hard questions. What grades are you getting? Are you seeing anyone? How are things going, even when he knew it was rough. His jovial personality always lifted my spirit and comical stories lightened any mood. He looked after me with care and concern. Holidays were always complete with the Bradley's present. Mr. B, you will always be with me, pushing me to exceed your expectation. All of us here are lucky to have you watching over us. Enjoy flying free with Jeff. Until we meet again. Love, Jamie

September 12 at 7:38 PM



Anonymous sent a Cherished Memories - All White to the Bradley family.



September 12 at 2:21 PM



Tribute Wall

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Patrick Staeheli posted:

CW4 Dick Bradley and I flew many flights together in the Huey and Cobra and shared some great memories from National Guard Aviation training events as well as our Vietnam experiences. I enjoyed his words of wisdom during our "Old Aviators" breakfasts at Red Wing Nisqually Tribal Casino on the last Saturday of most months. I will miss him and his friendly demeanor. --- Pat Staeheli

September 11 at 12:20 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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