



Randall "Randy" Paul Otto

November 27, 1952 - December 29, 2021

Randall "Randy" Otto, 69, of Phillips, passed away December 29, 2021 in Chattanooga, TN. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, January 15th at 3pm at All Faiths Funeral Home. Dan Naranjo will officiate. Visitation will run from 1-3 pm on that day, also at the funeral home.

On Thanksgiving day, November 27, 1952, Randall Paul Otto arrived. Randy was the third child of William Keith (W.K.) and Beverly E. (Stewart) Otto. He was raised on the family farm south of Phillips where he lived at the time of his death. He graduated from Aurora High School in 1971 and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska.

Randy fulfilled his lifelong ambition to become a pilot and to serve the country by entering the United States Air Force on July 19, 1978. After completing specialized training, he was stationed at Norton Air Force Base in California where he flew the Lockheed C-141 Starlifter worldwide.

One of his favorite flights occurred in 1985 when he accompanied the "Blue Angels" into Grand Island for logistical support. His C-141 was one of the largest planes to land at the Grand Island Airport.

Randy left active duty on January 29, 1985. He immediately transitioned into the Air Force Reserves where he served until March 1, 2003. He was recalled to active duty for six months for Desert Storm in 1991. During his tours of duty he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal and the Air Medal. He retired with the rank of Major. Randy enjoyed farming and collecting and restoring vintage scouts.

Survivors include: sister, Sue (Gary) Washburn; nieces, Abbie (Andy) Gdowski and Shalyse (Daniel) Lottermoser; nephew, Brant (Traci) Washburn; sister-in-law, Dawyn Otto; special aunt, Marilyn Fischer; special friend, Emma Faulk. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Timothy J. Otto and Todd W. Otto.

He will be missed by many other relatives and friends.

Memorials to the Phillips Memorial Hall, 501 3rd Street, Phillips, NE, 68865.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **15**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Celebration of Life Service

JAN **15**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *All Faiths Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Randall "Randy" Paul Otto*



All Faiths Funeral Home - January 15, 2022 at 03:35 PM



“ *Randall "Randy" Paul Otto*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *From a resident of Signal Mountain, TN: Our hearts are broken over the loss of such a wonderful man, your beloved Randy. Please know how saddened we are and that Randy's family and friends are being held in our hearts and our prayers. He matters to us in TN.*

Carolyn Geil - January 20, 2022 at 09:58 PM

SO

“ (Post 2)

Randy's Final Lesson: Life is an adventure best shared with friends. There are 3 types of love and we each have a greater propensity for one of them.

- 1. Love of God (1st Great Commandment)*
- 2. Love of Man (2nd Great Commandment-Love Your Neighbor as Yourself)*
- 3. Love of Self*

Love of God leads to the greatest good, Love of your neighbor done in the light of number 1 is most commendable, love of self without the first two leaves you pompous, selfish, and always hungry for more. Where did Randy live life?

Randy lived life in the Love of Man as witnessed by the number of best friends he had. How could any one person have that many Best Friends? He always was the initiator of phone calls to these best friends, and if the best friend was not at home, then he endeared himself to the spouse. His close friends tended to be successful people; farmers, pilots, bankers, sergeants, investigators, doctors, ranchers, nurses, businessmen, lieutenants, pharmacists, mechanics, lawyers, entrepreneurs, retirees, but there was never a social line he would not cross to befriend or help.

Randy lived his first dream of being an Air Force pilot flying troops, special forces, and equipment around the world. Many of us lived life precariously through him with all his stories of crusty old generals, steal jaw sergeants, daring pilots, and crazy special forces. Sitting on a patio listening to these stories was truly entertaining. His brother-in-law spoke of a hunting trip he was on with Randy in the back country of harsh Montana terrain only accessible on horse. Two days in Randy received word of the invasion of Grenada. Ignoring the advice of other party members, Randy turned his horse around with minimum supplies to return home. His country needed him, and he had a job to do.

Randy's post Air Force dream was "Emma Air" based out of Panama, because of their international agreements. He had the backing of top government people of Panama (having previously

orchestrated a fly in of donated medical supplies) and a business plan written by a Microsoft executive (who he met on a plane). The goal was to repurpose a cargo plane as a surgical center in the air, employing the best medical staff possible, ready to be deployed to disaster areas and in-between disasters, sent to third world countries.

To help finance this he wanted to fly lobster, fish, and roses into Grand Island from Central America, and American beef back to Central America.

Stories like these about a man's life reveal the heart of the man. We tend to think this body is clothed with a spirit, but it is the spirit that is clothed with this body. And when we shed this body, our spirit lives and the true man is revealed.

Randy was a unique friend with unique ideas (sometimes crazy ideas-the adventure) but always had a heart for others. His final act of friendship was reaching out to an old friend who was walking in spiritual darkness, Randy not only extended her a hand, but he entered the darkness desiring to carry her back to the light. Instead, he was overcome by the darkness, and he did not return.

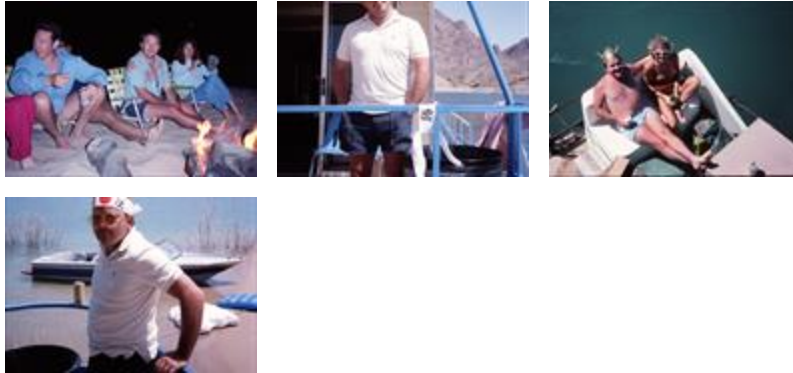
It wasn't until Randy was gone, that I learned my final lesson from him. He showed me what it looks like to be a friend. His spirit is back in the light having loved others more than himself. And when I see him again, his appearance will be like the young man I knew serving his country and fellow man.

Yes, Life is an Adventure Best Lived in the Light of God and Shared With Friends.

Steve Osenbaugh - January 14, 2022 at 05:21 PM

FI

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Finski - January 09, 2022 at 06:25 PM

MV

“ After getting checked out in the C-141, I flew my first overseas trip with Randy. What a memorable trip. We caught so many fish at Wake Island we didn't know what to do with them. The wheel well in the C-141 only keeps it fresh for so long. After mooning a flight of A-6's taxiing out for takeoff (Randy's idea of course), we took in a tour of Wake Island. I always had a good time flying with Randy. RIP brother.

Marty Vasquez - January 09, 2022 at 05:36 PM

BC

“ I was a classmate of Randy's and enjoyed his free spirit and humor. From high school biology class, where we used Bunsen burners, etc., to when I last saw, and visited with him this past summer, his greeting to me was always the same, "Hey Bunsen!" I am proud to have known him, and will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers with this tragedy.
Bonnie Campbell

Bonnie Campbell - January 08, 2022 at 06:57 PM

FI

Randy and I were assigned as pilots on a mission to return Marine Corps troops and their General to El Toro MCAS (now closed) near Irvine, California. We were about 20 minutes from descending for El Toro when Randy returns to the Flight Deck from a brief visit to the bathroom. He says to me, "Uh ... this General thinks he's going to San Diego." Because Randy was such a personable guy, he'd struck up a conversation with the Marine General. Randy's personableness paid off in spades! We got busy coordinating an official reroute to San Diego. Randy saved the day from what certainly would've been a major embarrassment to our Command chain.

Dave Sharafinski

Finski - January 09, 2022 at 06:16 PM

RB

Going to miss you, Godfather. You were one of a kind, and I'm sure you're entertaining all of your old pals and family with some fun stories up there in Heaven.

Ryan Black

Ryan Black - January 15, 2022 at 04:10 PM