



Dell Vaughn McDonald

December 21, 1936 - January 12, 2023

Dell Vaughn McDonald, LtCol, USAF, Retired

Born December 21, 1936, died January 12, 2023. Vaughn led a life of service. After graduating from Milford High School in 1955, he entered the University of Utah. He received a B.S. in mining engineering 1960 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force. He received a B.S. in meteorology from Penn State University in 1961 and an M.S. in meteorology from the University of Utah in 1966. He served 20 years of active service in the Air Force retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

During his military career he served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Among his many military honors was the Bronze Star Medal. One of his proudest moments was when he participated in President Harry S. Truman's funeral as an escort officer. Vaughn authored several professional papers that were published in international and U.S. scientific journals.

His subsequent careers included: Assistant to the President for Advancement at Southern Utah University; Founder, President and CEO of Home Health Services, Inc.; Founder of the Garth B. Last Charitable Foundation; Co-Director of the Crusade for The Homeless; and an administrative volunteer for The Road Home homeless shelter.

Vaughn and his wife, Harriet, were world travelers. Over several years they visited 41 countries and 43 states – their most educational journey was to the Peruvian Amazon and Machu Picchu.

Vaughn is survived by his wife, Harriet Cline Nielson McDonald, PhD, son James S. McDonald (Carrie), daughter Mary McDonald Jensen (Rocky), and four grandchildren: Michael D. McDonald (Meg), Zachary L Allan, Christopher T. McDonald (Shannon), Allison E. McDonald. He is also survived by his first wife Betty Ferguson McDonald.

A celebration of life will be held February 5, 2023 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Sagewood @ Daybreak, 11289 S Oakmond Road, South Jordan. Light refreshments and drinks will be served.

In lieu of flowers, Vaughn and Harriet request donations be made to The Road Home, or the charity of your choice in his name.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 5. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Sagewood at Daybreak
11289 S Oakmond Road
South Jordan, UT

Tribute Wall



“ *Dell Vaughn McDonald*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Hi Vaughn, Heard you were not faring well and now you have gone over to the other side. Know you will be joining Jack Gallivan and all the other dogooders there. Give him my best and make a little space for the rest of us.*

One of my happiest memories is of the terrific fun we had with Jack at the many lunch time get togethers at Lamb's over the years. There was always something to learn, humor to share and quiet congratulations for meaningful accomplishments.

And to you Harriet, thank you for holding Vaughn back when he was first on my tail. Can't remember the misunderstanding exactly but, boy, he was on my case. You talked to him and the next thing he and I were on the same side, in the same tide, forever. He was a patriot in every sense of the word made better by you.

Peace to you both.

Tim Funk

Timothy Funk - February 03, 2023 at 02:09 PM

PI

“ Dear Harriet, I am so saddened to hear of Dell's passing. I know these last few years have been difficult. But I will always remember officiating your wedding ceremony and the years of friendship we shared together. You are in my best thoughts and prayers for the Lord's comfort and peace. Also keep in mind the many choral anthems of faith we shared in choir together. With the love of Christ always, Pastor Mike

Pastor Mike Imperiale - February 02, 2023 at 11:51 PM

MF

“ Vaughn- you enriched my life, inspired me in many ways, and served as a role model for dedication to the things you deeply cared about. In my typical somewhat skeptical way, I remember wondering what the catch was when you first showed up at The Road Home and said “put me to work” You really meant it. You wanted to do whatever it was that would have the most impact. And you surely did have a deep and lasting impact in creating housing First programs in our community. I have such love for you. Harriet, thank you for being you and supporting Vaughn in his dedicated work to help people end their homelessness.

Michelle Flynn - February 02, 2023 at 11:08 PM

JW

“ Vaughn, thank you for all our discussions about the the Air Force and your interest in my fathers service in the Army Air Corp during World War II. It brought me comfort to share my fathers stories with you. I know you helped get the stories out of many service men which I'm sure was exhausting work.

I still have the book you loaned me on General Patton.

I always enjoyed our visits at The Road Home when you would stop by to say Hello. You were a great story teller and what a great sense of humor!

Thank you Vaughn

James K. Woolf

James K Woolf - January 30, 2023 at 04:03 PM

JS

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Vaughn. He was a great friend and mentor to me and incredibly supportive our our Atmospheric Sciences department at the University of Utah.

When my father passed, I remember him telling me that I would remember him every day and that has been the case. Now every time I think of my father, I think of those words that Vaughn shared. My deepest condolences to everyone in Vaughn's family and know that you too will think of him every day.

Jim Steenburgh

Jim Steenburgh - January 29, 2023 at 07:14 PM

KB

“ Vaughn, you were one in a million. Love to you and Harriet, my friend. Kerry Bate

Kerry Bate - January 29, 2023 at 05:50 PM

CJ

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of an old friend and classmate.
Condolences to his family.
Carol Jean Garfield Johnson

Carol johnson - January 29, 2023 at 01:37 PM

KS

“ Dear Harriet ... we are so fortunate to have known Vaughn and cherish calling him and you our friends.
I will always smile thinking of when we would come over for our dinners and a toast and he would always greet me with “Hi Kandy Rae”. Us “Rae’s” need to stick together Harriet ❤️.
Love you! Jim & Kandy

Kandy Rae Selgo - January 26, 2023 at 09:35 PM

SY

“ The Buckley SFB military Retiree Activities Office (RAO) would like to offer our sincere condolences and our gratitude for Lt Col McDonald’s distinguished service to our country in the Air Force. If you would like help with any matters related to casualty assistance, Defense Finance & Accounting Service, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Veterans Affairs (VA), etc. you can contact our office on Buckley SFB (Denver, CO) at 720-847-6693 or raobuckley@gmail.com. The RAO is staffed by volunteers, all military retirees themselves, and our sole purpose is to provide assistance to any military retirees and surviving spouses/family members with anything related to their military service and/or benefits, in particular during difficult times such as this. We are deeply sorry for your loss.

Steve Young
Lt Col, USAF, Ret
Director, Buckley SFB RAO

Steve Young - January 26, 2023 at 03:11 PM