

Stu Carlson



Stuart Milton Carlson, a resident of Palm Desert, California for 23 years, passed away December 15, 2009, at the age of 78. Born August 31, 1931 to Joseph Milton Carlson and Margaret Lindstrom in Holdrege, Nebraska, Stu attended the University of Nebraska, where he graduated with a degree in engineering. In 1954, Stu joined the Air Force as a second lieutenant at Malden Air Force Base in Missouri. After being released

from active duty, he worked five years for the Boeing Company in Seattle.

Stu always loved to fly, so in 1964 when United Airlines offered him a job as a pilot, he didn't hesitate. His years with United were good ones. In 1968, while a member of the Air Force Reserve, his unit was called to serve in Vietnam. Upon his return home in 1969 as a lieutenant colonel, Stu married Anne von der Hellen in Portland, Oregon. Their meeting was fate: Stu was a pilot, and Anne was a flight attendant.

Stu and Anne both loved to travel. After buying their first Marathon in 1992, they joined Marathon Coach Club, and because both were very social people, they loved going to the rallies—over the years, Stu and Anne probably attended more than a dozen. Other things that Stu loved included: golf (in his prime, he had a handicap of 12); gin rummy (after playing a round of golf,

Stu was often found in the locker room playing a hand or two with his golfing buddies); the Nebraska Cornhuskers (the football team of his alma mater could absolutely do no wrong!); meat and potatoes (this was the kind of man Stu was, too—basic and down-to-earth).

Another thing Stu loved was driving his Marathon coach, with his wife and his dog by his side. Stu was a good man and had a good sense of humor. He was fun to be around and had many friends.

Stu leaves behind his wife Anne; daughter Leslie Dickens; son Ryan Carlson; two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter; sisters Elaine and Susan, and younger brother Stanley, all of Nebraska.

Because of Stu's military background, the memorial that was held for him in January in Riverside, California, was a service with full military honors. •

CARING THOUGHTS: *Our Condolences to All*

Over the past several months some Marathon Club members have been faced with challenging personal issues: family members have passed on, major surgical procedures have been performed. Marathon Coach wishes to acknowledge these people. Their strength and courage is an inspiration to us all.

Past club member *Roy Lutrel*, husband of Gail, passed away March 31.

Mel McGowan's spinal cord was damaged in October while receiving cancer treatment. He is paralyzed from the chest down but is hopeful that he will walk again some day.

Help Your Sunshine Committee!

If you hear about club members who are sick or have suffered losses in their families, please let your Sunshine Committee know; they'll get in touch with a card or a phone call. Please share this information with Committee Chairperson Esther Bjorklund (esther@bjorklunds.com or 303/912-2689) or Office Administrator Deb Johnson (800/234-9991).