



Ralph and Jolene Smith

Smiths

Ralph and Jolene Smith entered into rest together while in flight to their home on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009.

Ralph Raymond Smith, Sr. was born July 10, 1935 in Phoenixville, Pa., to Raymond Oscar Smith and Johanna Maire Henkels. He graduated from Spring City High School and later attended Parks College, receiving his pilot certificates.

Following his schooling, he served in the U.S. Air Force. During his service in the military, he married Jolene Bailey Sept. 10, 1955 in East St. Louis, Ill. Following his military service, they returned to Cahokia, Ill., where Ralph earned his flight instructors rating at Parks College after which he preceded to Maine where he flew crop dusters and hunting parties into Canada. Afterwards, he began working for Westinghouse as a pilot. He later flew for Eastern Airlines for more than 32 years as well as United Express and Ryan International.

He and Jolene came to Arizona nine years ago, settling in Aguila at Eagle's Roost Air Park, where they remained actively flying.

Ralph and Jolene enjoyed, flying, RVing, motorcycles, camping and traveling.

He was a member of the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wickenburg, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, QBs (Quiet Birdmen), Silver Falcons, Goldwing Roadriders Association, Short Wing Piper Club and the Comanche Society.

Jolene Bailey Smith was

born Jan. 22, 1938 in Cahokia, Ill., to Loren Bailey and Margaret Draper Bailey. She was raised there and attended schools there.

She married Ralph after high school, and they moved to Gallup, N.M., shortly thereafter to be together during Ralph's military service. They later returned to Cahokia, Ill., where she was a homemaker and mother and also began a career in banking and worked in all capacities in banking - eventually as a bank manager.

Jolene was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and a member of the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wickenburg.

Surviving family include sons Ralph R. Smith, Jr. (Sherr) of Du Quoin, Ill., and Dwight L. Smith (Sonya) of Culpeper, Va.; grandchildren Erin Muchowski of Roebing N.J., Ryan Smith of Richmond, Va., Kyle Smith and Nicholas Smith of Culpeper; and great-grandchild Ava Grace Muchowski and sister Patricia Gallow of Phoenixville.

Memorial services were held Sunday (Oct. 11) at 5 p.m. at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wickenburg.

Friends may offer online condolences at www.wickenburgfuneralhome.com.

Memorial contributions in Ralph and Jolene's memory may be made to the American Heart Association at americanheart.org.

Arrangements were under the direction of Wickenburg Funeral Home and Crematory.