

Thomas Steven Kasych
age 75, of Gilbert, AZ



passed into the arms of our Lord surrounded by family on December 3, 2021. He was born on September 29, 1946 in Medina, OH to Dan Kasych and Stella Nemcek.

Tom graduated from Miami University in 1968, accepting a commission in the United States Air Force. He served 21 years as a pilot, security police officer, and commander, serving in Texas, Vietnam, Nebraska, California, Hawaii, and Indiana. He had 625 combat hours flying the UC-123K Ranch Hand in Vietnam. His military career culminated in 5,358 flight hours in the C/UC123, T-38, and EC/RC/KC-135. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, and five Air Medals. He served 70th Air Refueling Squadron Commander and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Following his retirement in 1989, Tom continued pursuing his love of flying as a commercial pilot for America West and US Airways for another 18 years.

As much as Tom loved both flying and his country, he cherished his family even more. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Barbara; their four sons, Thomas II (Kathryn), Keith (Cynthia), Kevin (Laura), and Christopher (Luana); and seven grandchildren, Olivia, Isabella, Daniel, Kevin II, Angela, Miranda, and Thomas III. He spent his retirement years joyfully sharing his presence with them, whether peacefully fishing at their mountain cabin or traveling the breadth of the country for the celebration of each life event.

"The soul of a pilot, ever soaring high above the clouds, knows of a special peace in being near to God." Too soon, our Lord called Thomas home for his final repose.

At his request, no service will be held. Rather, a celebration of life in his honor is planned to be held in February of 2022 in Gilbert, AZ, with final interment planned within the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery later that summer.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation may be made in Thomas' name to either:

- K9s for Warriors: an organization focused on mitigating the debilitating symptoms of service-connected traumas by pairing them with trained Service Dogs. <https://K9sforwarriors.org>
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV): an organization that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations. <https://dav.org>