



Lou Howard

September 30, 1924 - July 4, 2021

Eastern Airlines Captain L.A. Howard passed away Sunday, July 4, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 75 years, Louise W. Howard; sons and daughters in law, Martin L. (Grace) and Gregory L. (Cathy); grandchildren Zachary (Jamie) and Chelsea Howard; and 2 great granddaughters.

His interest in flying started while in high school in Whitehouse, New Jersey. Each Sunday he watched a small airplane fly over his neighborhood and wave to people on the ground. He decided this was what he wanted to do, and made arrangements to start flying lessons in Pennsylvania. It was wartime and pilot training was not permitted on the East Coast. His paper route helped pay for his flying lessons. Upon completion of high school, he joined the US Army as an Air Corp Cadet, and graduated top of his class in gunnery school. He completed the cadet program as a B 25 pilot, and was stationed at the US Training Command Center. While in the Cadet training program, he was sent to Middle Georgia College in Cochran, GA where he met and married the love of his life, Louise Williams. They shared 75 wonderful years together.

Following his military service, he flew a paper route from Macon, GA to locations all around South Georgia, dropping bags of papers in baseball fields along the way. This was the first air/mail drop service of its kind. In 1951, he joined Eastern Airlines, where he flew for 34 years, until retirement at age 60. When Eastern Airlines prepared to purchase the A 300 Airbus fleet, Captain Howard was part of the team sent to Toulouse, France to train to fly this new aircraft. His inaugural US flight was from Atlanta to San Francisco, a route he flew regularly until his retirement.

Retirement from the commercial airline industry did not stop his flying. He was a member of the Commemorative Air Force, for 22 years, fifteen of which he served as the Operations Officer and flew war birds at air shows all over the southeast. He and his wife moved to Park Springs in 2004, where he remained very active. He belonged to Smoke rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain and served in the Church audio department for 30 years. He was a member of the Retired Eastern Pilots Association, and the Eastern

Airlines Retirees Association.

A private graveside service was held with the family. A memorial celebration of life service will be held on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 2:00 PM at Park Springs Retirement Community, 500 Springhouse Cir, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. The family requests that in lieu of flowers memorial donations be made in memory of Captain L.A. Howard to Park Springs Foundation, <https://www.parksprings.com/park-springs-foundation-benefits-employees-atlantas-premier-retirement-community/>.

Condolences may be sent or viewed at <http://www.wagesfuneralhome.com>. Tom M. Wages Funeral Service, A Family Company, 3705 Highway 78 West, Snellville, GA 30039 (770-979-3200) has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Tom M. Wages Funeral Service - August 04 at 09:59 AM



“ 59 files added to the album LifeTributes



Tom M. Wages Funeral Service - August 03 at 04:09 PM



“ Captain Howard was my first flight instructor. He gave many valuable lessons to me, and his son Marty, during 1967. By 1973 I was a fighter pilot, still remembering many life-long habits he taught me. And oh, what a Fine Gentleman!

Eric Hedden - July 13 at 12:08 AM



“ Lou was a great man who loved his wife Louise very much for 75 years, he had a great sense of humor and we will treasure his stories of his flying days at Eastern. Well my friend you have now reached your longest flight to the kingdom of Heaven with Our Lord Jesus Christ. RIP dear friend.

Bert abd Dinorah Mujica - July 09 at 09:33 AM



“ Lou was a wonderful friend and colleague in working audio at Smoke Rise for many years. He always had a smile and an encouraging word. I looked forward to seeing him and Louise sitting in the balcony at Smoke Rise on Sundays he was not on duty. Later when I visited at Park Springs he was always there with a spring in his step and a smile on his face.

Jim Farmer - July 07 at 11:00 AM



“ Uncle Howie was a wonderful loving human being. I was honored to be, I believe, his first niece. Uncle Howie and I shared a very special bond. He loved me as his own and I loved him as a father. Fly high in the sky Uncle Howie and know that I loved you with all my heart!

Melanie Williams Spivey - July 08 at 05:19 PM



“ As fellow members of SRBC, we met Lou and Louise at the live-streamed church services at Park Springs, which we helped to host. "Lou and Lou" became beloved friends and we always enjoyed visiting with them and hearing Lou's upbeat, entertaining stories and comments. We will miss this dapper, astute fellow, and extend our heartfelt sympathies to lovely Louise.

God's peace,
Jim & Marcella Howard

Marcella HOWARD - July 07 at 10:59 AM