



Richard A. Vaux

January 10, 1934 - July 18, 2019

Hampton Falls – Richard Alden Vaux, 85, of Hampton Falls, and Port Charlotte, Florida passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 18, 2019 after an extended illness. Richard was born on January 10, 1934 in Swampscott, MA, a son of the late Robert and Carolyn (Dudley) Vaux.

Richard was raised in Danvers, MA, a graduate of Danvers High School and went on to earn his degree from the University of Maine, Orono. He was a pilot for TWA for 30 years and a proud veteran, flying for the Massachusetts Air National Guard and The Maine Air National Guard.

His TWA mission to Beirut, Lebanon in 1985 to retrieve a hijacked plane has recently been published in a book titled “ Dirty Work.” His hobbies included cars, spending time at his camp in Maine, skiing and golf.

He leaves behind 3 children, daughter Margo Tolosko and husband, Jerry, of Houston, Texas, son Glenn Vaux of Hampton Falls, NH and daughter Melanie Vaux of Quincy, MA. He is also survived by his first wife, Julie Vaux of Exeter, NH as well as two nephews, two great nieces and one great nephew.

He was predeceased by his second wife, Cynthia (Burke) Mackintosh Vaux and his sister, Geraldine Olsen and her daughter Brooke Olsen.

Friends and family are invited to attend a Celebration of Richard's life. It will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2019 from 4:00-7:00 pm at The Breakfast Hill Golf Club, 339 Breakfast Hill Road. Greenland, NH 03840. (603) 436-5001. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Friends of Hyder Family Hospice House. 285 County Farm Road. Dover, NH 03820.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Breakfast Hill Golf Club
339 Breakfast Hill Road
Greenland, NH 03840
(603) 436-5001

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard A. Vaux*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *To know Dick was to know the meaning of gifted. To fly with Vaux was to know what to aspire to. We were fortunate.*



Bud Farwell Col. USAFR (Ret.)

Bud Farwell - September 07, 2019 at 07:48 PM

SG

“ As a flight engineer on the L-1011 at TWA, I flew with Dick many, many times during the early 1990s. He was probably my favorite captain to fly with in those days, a real gentleman, excellent aviator and a genuine mentor. The cockpit environment he established was professional, comfortable and synergistic. I always felt I was part of an extraordinary team when we worked together. We laughed a lot, but he had a way of instilling a quiet yet lasting pride in ourselves and our profession.

While there were a number of memorable trips, I recall one flight back from Paris to Boston. We had a Lebanese fellow riding our jumpseat, a 747 captain for Middle East Airlines. He was travelling to Boston to visit his son, who was in either medical or dental school there. It turned out that he had been a member of the Lebanese Phalange during the civil war, and had been wounded in that combat. The conversation was amazing as we crossed the Atlantic. We all learned a lot from each other in those hours. Our friend had a camcorder and shot a video of our departure from Paris; I do hope Dick got the promised copy.

Shortly after I learned of Dick's passing, I had a trip that passed through Boston. Our planned takeoff weight was too heavy to depart off of runway 22R, and the first officer was unsure of what we should do. I said, "Just tell 'em we need 22L" ...and as the words came out, I could hear Dick saying the same thing on many a departure for Europe years ago. As we taxied out to the runway, and made the turn onto taxiway November to cross over to 22L, I looked across at the houses in Winthrop, and I almost felt like Dick was there. Then we were cleared for takeoff, swung around onto the runway, and we pushed the throttles up.

I will never forget him, and will always be grateful for the times we had working together, and for the example he always set.

Steve Green - September 07, 2019 at 05:41 PM

MW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Maureen Winsor - August 07, 2019 at 09:04 AM

“ We all have fond memories of Richard here in Stonebridge, Port Charlotte, Florida. He made Stonebridge his winter home with his wife Cyththia and was an active golfer, enjoying all that SW Florida has to offer.

As a friend, neighbor and his realtor, I got to know Richard and his family over the last couple of years. I do have one story to share. When he was having roof issues, he asked if I knew anyone who could put a tarp up until the roofers came. I said that I could do it for him. Having never been on a barreled tile roof, I solicited my neighbor and together we climbed and carefully crawled with the tarp in hand. With Richard and Mary on the ground, us on the roof we managed to secure the tarp with duct tape. After that we were known as "the Tarp ladies."

His death is a sad loss, - he made many friends here in Stonebridge over the years having been a resident in Stonebridge for just about 20 years.

Richard was a fine man with a stellar career as a pilot. Like so many others, I was drawn to Richard by his charm, courage and his stories. AS many of you know, he spent the majority of his career with TWA. What you may not know is that he was the pilot that snuck into Beirut during the civil war to fly back TWA flight 847 hijacked by terrorists. At the time they couldn't be sure if the plane would fly, if it was wired for explosives or whether they would be safe from the anti American militants. Of all his adventures as a pilot, this one is the most captivating. He had lots of stories but for this one he wrote a book, DIRTY WORK.

If you'd like a copy, you can get it on Amazon. Or I have the manuscript you can borrow. It's a fascinating read.

Richard will be missed but will remain alive in the memories of those that loved, respected and treasured him.

Maureen Winsor - August 07, 2019 at 08:57 AM

MH

“ *Lt. Col. Vaux was my flight commander at the 132nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 101st Fighter Wing, Maine ANG. Dick was an amazing aviator who saved a F101B Voodoo when the flight controls locked up electronically. This on short final and, contrary to a normal response, with the nose on a decent angle he applied max power which rotated the nose upward. When he had some safe altitude, he actually got his boot in front of the control stick and through sheer leg strength. Broke the controls free. That resulted in a violent - as Dick described it "JC" maneuver which he also recovered from. Dick was a mentor, leader, gentleman and friend. There are few people in your life whose decency, talent and charisma both influence and provide a lasting legacy to emulate. Lt. Col. Vaux was that special person for me. Sincerest condolences to family and friends of Dick. Maj. Gen. Will Hessert, USAF (Ret.)*

Maj. Gen. Wilfred Hessert - July 21, 2019 at 01:03 PM

TM

“ *Snake, RIP.....missed you last night at the lobster bake!
Froggy*

tom MeANG - July 20, 2019 at 07:57 AM

BK

Tom - please contact me re. Col. Vaux - you can reach me via facebook messenger.

Brad Kuhn - July 22, 2019 at 08:18 AM

LS

“ *RIP Dick. I will miss your fun and enthusiasm at our Avanti meets as well as your tales of piloting fighter jets and your career as a 747 captain for TWA. I remember the time in June 2001 when Dick rode with me in my 1963 Avanti from St. Louis, Mo., to the Avanti Owners Association meet in Villa Rica, Georgia, keeping me entertained with stories of hot shoe flights in his F-101 fighter over the lake outside of Chatanooga, Tennessee!*

I will miss his friendship and help with anything Studebaker and Avanti related. A true friend.



Lew Schucart - July 19, 2019 at 07:27 PM

MC

“ *I met Dick at the awards dinner for the crew after they brought back the hijacked plane. We all immediately bonded and I considered him a friend for life. He stayed overnight at our house one night after my husband got sick and offered to come back whenever I needed him. I will always remember his kindness.*

I am so sorry for your loss.

Mary Ann Corley

Mary Ann Corley - July 19, 2019 at 09:18 AM

EE

“ *RIP my friend I will miss our talks and Air Force discussions.*

Ernest

Ernest Ewards - July 19, 2019 at 05:31 AM