



Michael Carlson

September 22, 1936 - December 21, 2009

Michael Robert Carlson, 73, of Arlington, died Monday, Dec. 21, 2009. Mike was born Sep 22, 1936, to Carl Carlson and Dorothy Imhoff Carlson. Mike grew up in Peoria, IL and worked for the Peoria Journal Star while attending school and earned a BS degree in Business from Bradley University. He was then Commissioned a second lieutenant and entered the Air Force in 1958. His primary profession in the Air Force was teaching navigation logging over 5,500 hours mostly in the KC-135A mid-air refueler. He served his country honorably for over 24 years attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served four tours in Vietnam and earned the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, three Air Medals, two Commendation medals, Republic Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. He retired in 1983 and became a realtor/broker in real estate. For the past 20 years he lived in Arlington, Texas. He had many friends at High Point Church. During that time Mike and his wife Sharon were members of Loyd and Lynn Creek Parks. The employees at both parks became like family to them. Mike was a loving husband and father. He loved his Lord Jesus Christ and his family is comforted with the knowledge of seeing him again. Sharon lost her loving soul mate. Survivors include his Wife of 51 years, Sharon K. Carlson; Sons, Stephen Carlson of Enid, OK, David Carlson, Of Euless, TX; Daughters, Deborah Baumgartner of Mason, OH, Pamela Lewis of Glendale, AZ; Sisters, Marlus Ritchey and Mary Bright both of Illinois; 10 grand children, Susan Carlson, Raquel Carlson, Bridgette Carlson, Andrew Carlson, Ryan Carlson,

Blake Baumgartner, Katerina Baumgartner, McKenna Lewis, Jake Lewis, and Stephen Gronke; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Grandpa, I really miss you. I hope that you are enjoying being in Gods hands, and hope that your time is the "Greatest" time you have ever had being in Heaven. I look forward to the day when I pass away from this earth and be with you again. I remember sitting on your lap and you reading to me. Thanks for your time spent with me. Love, Jake Lewis

Jake (grandson) - January 03, 2010 at 08:02 PM

PD

“ Dad.... You are missed. I know you are in a better place-not feeling any more pain from the cancer. I thought of you as brave enduring it. I had asked you two months before you passing onto heaven , what is the one thing you wish you could of done before you were stricken with this cancer. You said, you would have liked to go to London. Well Dad, If I ever go there myself I know you will be there with me. I still see your gentle face talking with me, the gentle words spoken from your heart. I talk alot to you on my runs Dad. I miss you so much!!!!!!! You will always be a Saint to me. Thank you Dad, for being the kind hearted father you were. I hope you are reunited to your Mom and Dad, I know you missed them. Love you, Pamela

Pamela (youngest daughter) - January 03, 2010 at 07:47 PM

CR

“ People pass on from this life to the next every day all over the world and what is then known about them is what they leave behind. While we didn't know Michael Carlson personally very well, we only met once, but in knowing his son David, we felt like we knew Michael well. David often spoke of his father and all of which was positive. Michael left behind riches, the kind that will follow him later, he left a legacy worth boasting of - a wife of 51 years, children and grandchildren who love him. A wife of 51 years, speaks volumes in a day of easy divorce, children who speak only highly of their father shouts even louder of a man's character. Michael Carlson will be missed down here but the reunion later will be marvelous. May more men live a life and leave a legacy that Michael has. May God's grace fill all left here who will miss him with joy that the family reunion will come one day - it may even be in the clouds!

Chris n Insuk Roscher - January 03, 2010 at 03:56 AM

SC

“ I love you and miss you so much Grandpa! I honestly couldn't have asked for a more kind, fun, and loving grandfather in the world. You always had positive things to say and uplifted my spirits about whatever problems I came across whether it was about school or work. I'll always remember us walking in the park and trying to find armadillos. Haha!

Susan Carlson - January 02, 2010 at 01:21 AM

SC

“ If only I could have you back for one more day, I would hold you in my arms and stare at your face and tell you a million times how much I love you. You are bigger than life to me now. I adore you and the pain of missing you is almost unbearable. I'll love you forever and forever. Your Shari

sharon carlson - January 01, 2010 at 11:13 PM

LL

“ Hey Dave, I only saw your Dad a few times. I can imagine since he was your dad that he was a great guy like you. Even though you can't physically see him anymore he is always in your heart. Remember all the good times you shared with him and he will always be close. Your FRIEND, Larry.

larry leach - January 01, 2010 at 07:18 PM

DD

“ Hi Daddy -- I miss your presence here on Earth -- I miss your movements and your face. I miss all the small details that made you special and who you are. You are so very precious in so many way - I'm glad you are heaven. I wish I could give you a big hug. I love you all the way up to heaven!

I'm so glad you are completely healed now!!

*Love your daughter,
Debbie Doobers :-)*

Debbie Doobers - January 01, 2010 at 05:20 PM

“ My father, Michael Robert Carlson, was a blessed and loved husband and father. He was a gentle man that was calm in spirit and soft spoken. He was completely devoted to his family -- his wife, Sharon, and four children: Steve, Dave, Debbie, and Pam. He was thrilled to be a grandpa to all 10 of his grandchildren --Susan, Stephen, Raquel, Bridgette, Andrew, Ryan, Blake, Katerina, McKenna, and Jake. Growing up, I remember he had a quite strength and provided stability for his family with his faithful devotion to go to work everyday while my mom held down the home front. I really never worried about being fed , clothed, or having a roof over my head. What a blessing!

He was an excellent example to me in that he never apologized for not being a drinker or smoker -- but he didn't condemn those who did. It was a great lesson in being true to myself and not judging others. Although he was quite in nature, he also had quite a sense of humor -- loved the Three Stooges, Laurel and Hardy, and made some silly jokes sometimes -- sometimes he was the only one laughing while the rest of the family shook our heads. (The boys usually got it though and joined in) I remember fondly some common things he would say around the house --like:--"Tippy Canoe and Tyler too, Walking down the Avenue" -- "How Much Wood would a Woodchuck Chuck, if a woodchuck, could chuck wood?" -- and Cream of wheat is so good to eat and we eat it everyday!" His favorite color was blue and I remember we shared a love for the Carpenter's music -- like -- "I'm on the top of the world looking, down on creation." I only realized his deep faith in God in my adult years for my mom was much more open and vocal with prayers and faith early on in my life and found I kept learning more aspects about him as I got older.

My dad was great at math and had a great deal of patience compared to most people I know. He would set the paper down to help me with Algebra if I ever needed it. He was most happy when other family members were happy and was so happy to see my mom happy. My dad and mom had a great marriage -- they were

really connected -- a real life roller coaster ride that matured into the most beautiful friendship and loving bond -- full of life's experiences and lessons and devotion to each other in their senior years. I use to see them kiss and hold hands as they took a walk and thought how beautiful that was. He told me he just loved his senior years -- going for walks in the park and out to lunch with mom. He also enjoyed telling and retelling stories of his youth -- like growing up with his sisters, Marlus and Mary, how quite and gentle his mom, Dorothy was, and what a hard working and talented father he had who could take mechanical things a part and fix them after working two jobs. His childhood Sheltie was a special friend and pet and about his best friend Carl. In his teens, he was so proud of his job at the newspaper company and going through ROTC and graduating from Bradley University in IL.

My Dad was also proud to have served in the military and would share about his experiences over in Vietnam. After he retired from the military, he pursued a passion he had for real-estate by becoming a real-estate broker and went into business for himself with my mom as his partner.

God blessed his life and saw him through heart bypass surgery and prostate cancer. I remember him wanting to so much to be cured of this lung cancer too -- and we are thankful that God has made him whole and completely healed by delivering him of it into His arms in heaven.

I've only touched the surface of what my dad is to me -- he will be with me always till I see him again someday in heaven where we can embrace each other and say, "It's so very - very good to see you again." I will always remember my father's loving and gentle eyes -- they remind me of deer's. I will always remember my father's heart - - It was full of love. peace, and devotion. I love you forever dad!

*Love your daughter,
Debbie*

Deborah Baumgartner - January 01, 2010 at 02:34 PM

SC

“ *I miss the light of my life. You were my whole world. I love you more everyday. I'm just TDE.*

Love your wife, Sharon

Sharon K Carlson - January 01, 2010 at 02:06 PM

DC

“ *I love you and miss you Dad.*

David Michael Carlson - January 01, 2010 at 02:00 PM