



Robert Pickens

October 26, 1933 - September 28, 2011

Robert Ewell "Bob" Pickens, 77, of Troy, Missouri passed away Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at his home in Troy after a short battle with lung cancer.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Collier Funeral Home in Louisiana, Missouri. The Rev. Steve Pinnell will officiate. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until time of services at 2:00 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Fairview Cemetery near Louisiana, Missouri.

He was born October 26, 1933 in Shamrock, Oklahoma to Ewell Martin Pickens and LaVerna Wilkin Pickens. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sandra Dee Rule Pickens; children, Kim Pickens (Ernest Gibson), David Pickens (Joellen), Dan Pickens (Robin) and Kelly Anagnos: Stepson, William Terhune; grandchildren; Kurt Gibson, Todd Gibson, Brian and Amber Pickens and Brad Anagnos: sisters, Pat Glidewell (John), Carolyn Prevo, brother in-law, Richard Rule and sisters-in-law, Jane Reeves (Gary) and Carolyn Oliver (Bob).

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ewell Martin Pickens and LaVerna Wilkin Pickens. Bob spent his early years in Oklahoma before his family moved to Lefors, Texas, where his father worked in the oil fields and the family lived in a company "camp". When Bob was just 8 1/2, his father died after an industrial accident, and the family moved to Nortonville, Kansas to live with his maternal grandparents.

Bob graduated from Nortonville High School, later attending Washburn University in Ottawa, Kansas and Washington University in St. Louis, majoring in Engineering. He was employed by

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company for almost 40 years, beginning as a part-time "gopher" in the company mail room in Topeka, Kansas and ending as a main systems Engineer at the Technical Assistance Center in St. Louis.

During his early retirement years he and Sandra traveled extensively in the US and Europe. He also pursued his lifelong passion for aviation. Quickly becoming an AMP certified aircraft mechanic, owned and restored several classic airplanes and finally built his own experimental aircraft, flying it out of Greensfield Airport in Moscow Mills before his illness caught up with him. His favorite place in the world was either in the air or on the ground working on his or a friend's aircraft. He will be missed by all his flying buddies at Greensfield.

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Pickens*

November 08, 2022 at 10:35 AM



“ *Robert Pickens*

November 08, 2022 at 08:46 AM



“ *Bob,*
I will always remember you driving your MG, happy as can be. Working around the house fixing everything, and I mean everything. Your patience and your kindness taught me many things. My fondest memories are of all of us sitting around the dinner table, always a great conversation, filled with laughter and many stories. It made you never want to leave that table. Thank you for that, because without it, I never would have even known what a family dinner table time was.... but because of you, and your family, I do. Thank you for everything you did, were, and are. Love you Bob, fly in the sky, I know I'll see you up there smiling.
Tessa

Tessa - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sandy, you and your family are in our prayers. We will Bob, he was a great guy and a great pilot. God Bless*

Gene & Sharyn Rugh - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DZ

“ Bob was the first to welcome me to Greensfield Airport and became a fast friend, mentor, and all around GREAT GUY! He patiently helped me with the build of my Zenith 801 and many other airplane systems trouble shooting. Bob was a special friend and influence to my young son Matthew. In fact, when Matthew heard of Bob's passing today, he met me in the driveway with a very sad face to tell me the news and to let me know that we'll see Bob again in heaven. Godspeed Captain Bob, Godspeed!

Dave and Tammy Zilz - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Dear Sandra, We were so sorry to hear of Bob's passing. We have heard so many good things about him. There are no words to comfort you now but just know we and so many others love you. May the Lord bless and keep you. With love, Carol and Mackie

Mackie and Carol Love - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ All of you are in our thoughts.

Janet Johnson - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Mr. Pickens will "live on" through the remarkable legacy as seen in his children. I have been blessed to have met and become friends with Kelly.

Patty Slater - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Bob helped me often building my RV-6A which would never have had an operational electric system without his help and knowledge. He was special to all of us at Greensfield.

Ron Burnett - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Bob always helped others on their airplanes. He always seemed to show up just as a problem arose. He was there to help fix it. Bob taught me a lot and I will always be thankful for his friendship.

Craig Chipley - September 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM