



Col. Edsel J "Coupe" De Ville

September 21, 1938 - October 21, 2016

Edsel J. "Coupe" De Ville

Colonel Edsel J. "Coupe" De Ville of Litchfield, SC, slipped the bonds of earth on October 21, 2016, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born on Sept. 21, 1938, in Eunice, Louisiana, Coupe was the son of Joseph and Hazel Deville and a proud graduate of Louisiana State University. He also received a Masters Degree from Georgia College.

Col. De Ville entered the U.S. Air Force in 1961 and served his country as a Command Pilot for 28 years, logging over 5,000 hours in 12 different aircraft. He volunteered for two tours of combat duty in Vietnam, flying more than 400 combat missions. Over his Air Force career, Coupe flew a variety of fighter aircraft, including the A-10 in which he was a Top Gun. He was also awarded the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters and three Distinguished Flying Crosses. He was first assigned to Myrtle Beach Air Force Base in 1978 as commander of the 355th Tactical Flying Squadron. In 1987 he returned to Myrtle Beach Air Force Base where he served as Base Commander until his retirement in 1989.

After his Air Force retirement, Coupe became involved in many facets of the Myrtle Beach community. He was instrumental in the conversion of Myrtle Beach Air Force Base to the Market Common, particularly the establishment of War Bird Park which honors its heritage. He was also a member and president of the Surfside Area Rotary Club, a member the Elliott White

Springs Flight of the Daedalians, and Chairman of the Horry County Ride II Committee. He was a man who walked in his faith, one who loved his family and friends as well as fishing and flying.

Col. De Ville is survived by his wife Della M., daughters Paula Shore, Mignon Bosse, and Monique De Ville, one sibling, Sister Dorothy De Ville Cavaness, O. Carm., sons-in-law Michael Shore and Richard Bosse, ten grandchildren: Margeaux Shore, Peter Shore, Jacob Shore, Paul Shore, Luke Shore, Luke Bosse, Nicholas Bosse, William Bankhead, Elizabeth Bankhead, and Katherine Bankhead, and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Monty and C.E. Martin, Jr. A sister, Dr. Seraphia DeVille Ledy, preceded him in death.

A funeral mass in his honor will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Garden City with visitation starting at 9:45 am prior to the service. The interment will be at the Louisiana National Cemetery at 9:00 AM Friday, November 11, 2016. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in his memory be made to Tideland Hospice, 2591 North Fraser St., Georgetown, SC 29440; Surfside Area Rotary Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 14190; Surfside Beach, SC 29587, or the National MPS Society, 4220 Apex Highway; Durham, NC 27713.

Sign an online guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ *I can say that he always supported the base honor guard and I did a few flag pole retirement details with him if memory serves. Very good person.*

Robert Barry - August 12, 2020 at 05:58 PM

GH

“ *Edsel donec iterum occurrunt.
Weenie*

Gary Heartsill - October 31, 2016 at 08:05 AM

WU

“ *Thanks for your service Airman !!!!
Wayne Williams
United States Marine Corps*



Wayne Williams - USMC - October 31, 2016 at 08:04 AM

CS

“ Coupe and I were squadron commanders together at Myrtle Beach. Even though there was keen competition between the squadrons we fostered a great friendship that lasted long after our separation from the Air Force. Our families became close and we spent many wonderful hours together that we will never forget.

Coupe was truly a patriot that loved his Country and family and let it show in every way. I am truly proud to have known him and to have been called a friend. He will be sorely missed.

Della Jane, Paula, Mignon and Monique, The Spivey family is so sorry to hear of Coupe's passing and we share in your sorrow.

Chris Spivey.
Maj Gen. (Retired USAF)

Chris Spivey - October 30, 2016 at 03:15 PM

DR

“ When Ed and I were students at LSU in the 50s, he was the freest spirit I knew, a swash-buckler in the best sense of the term. At the same time, he was considerate and kind. Often I wanted to be him. It did not surprise me that he grew up to become a genuine hero. What a life! My admiration is unstinted, and I will miss him greatly.

David W. Robertson
Professor of Law
University of Texas

david robertson - October 29, 2016 at 08:54 AM

LM

“ *Lonnie and Susan McNeill purchased the Fruits and Blooms Basket for the family of Col. Edsel J "Coupe" De Ville.*



Lonnie and Susan McNeill - October 27, 2016 at 03:17 PM

JT

“ *My sincere condolences on your loss of this fine man. I pray for your peace and comfort during this time. Coupe was a great person and he will be missed.*

Jeff Thompson

Jeff Thompson - October 27, 2016 at 10:24 AM

DS

“ *Hugs and prayers to all of Coupe's family. He was such a loving and supportive member of this community for many years who continued to give-back long after his Air Force days. When I interviewed this "Top Gun" for the MB Air Force Base History project- his love for family- his wife, Della- his daughters- and all of the base folks- was a window into his beautiful soul and spirit. May God surround all of you with His love and support.*

*Diane DeVaughn Stokes
Myrtle Beach*

Diane DeVaughn Stokes - October 27, 2016 at 09:07 AM

DG

“ I am so sorry for your loss and the loss to our community. I worked with Mr. DeVille at Waccamaw Pottery years ago and so did love his personality, and caring ways towards everyone. His reading of "T'was A Night Before Christmas" was one of the greatest gifts for all of us there. He read it as though he was in Louisiana and shared that culture with us for a brief moment. He created such a memory and I just want to say his life was a celebration of what our todays young men should strive to be.

Delores Martin Giannamore - October 27, 2016 at 07:41 AM

MG

“ Coupe was a wonderful man. He was very caring and kind.

Marilyn Gill

Marilyn Gill - October 27, 2016 at 06:26 AM

LA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lacey Aaron - October 26, 2016 at 03:46 PM

PM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Remember to keep his stories and your memories of Coupe present in your daily lives.
Penny and Tim McCary

Penny McCary - October 26, 2016 at 11:19 AM

CB

“ *May God's peace be with you all. Cherish the memories you all created with Coupe. We will always remember him for his caring and loving nature. Billy and Carol Bernier*

Carol Bernier - October 26, 2016 at 11:03 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the De Ville family. I remember him well. I worked at the Officer's Club at MBAFB. He was a wonderful man, may he rest in peace*



Julia Jones - October 26, 2016 at 09:59 AM

TH

“ *Coupe was not only a dear and trusted neighbor and friend, he was the ultimate American Patriot. I loved him like a brother and respected him for his life long dedication to his family and his country. He was also the very first person to make a donation to upwithAmerica.org several years ago. It was an honor to know him and a heartbreaking to have lost him. May the Lord be with Dee and his family - and may the wind always be beneath his wings.*

Tom Herron - October 26, 2016 at 09:26 AM

GC

*Our prayers are with the DeVille family. Coupe was a great guy and true patriot. He will be missed.
George and Annie Chigi*

George Chigi - October 26, 2016 at 11:55 AM

DU

“ Col. Coupe DeVille was one of the best pilots I ever had the pleasure of maintaining his aircraft. He took care if his Men and showed everyone regaurdleyof rank the utmost respect. "Lay a nickel on the grass". High flight Coupe!



don Urban - October 25, 2016 at 06:32 PM