



Leonard Inabinette

November 9, 1944 - May 12, 2012

Leonard Wayne Inabinette, Lt. Col USAF Retired

Wayne Inabinette, Lt. Col USAF Retired, age 67 of Murrells Inlet, SC, died at his home on May 12, 2012.

Born in 1944, he was the son of the late Marvin James and Mary Gladys Weathers Inabinette of Holly Hill, SC. Wayne was a 1962 graduate of Holly Hill High School. In 1967, he graduated from the University of South Carolina and was commissioned into the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant. As a career Transportation Officer, he was a graduate of Transportation Staff Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Squadron Officer School. While serving at the United States Air Force Academy, he was selected as the 1976 Air Force Transportation Officer of the Year. He served in numerous worldwide assignments, including tours in Europe, Asia and many Air Force installations across the United States to include, Director of Transportation at Fifteenth Air Force, Chief of Vehicle Maintenance at Strategic Air Command and Chief of Vehicles at Strategic Air Command. Perhaps his favorite assignments were those where he served as Transportation Squadron Commander; he enjoyed interacting with people as "a father figure, a disciplinarian, a cheerleader, a confessor, and a source of all wisdom and truth." He received numerous citations during his career, including five Meritorious Service Medals and two Commendation Medals.

After he retired from the Air Force, he worked for Clemson University at The Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science where he spent seventeen years interacting with a large number of faculty and students from universities and agencies throughout the south. He was a tireless worker, traveling to wetland sites throughout the southeast, helping supervise graduate and undergraduate students, and volunteering to teach local school students about trees and plants. He was instrumental in developing and teaching a Junior Forester summer program for a number of years. His colleagues in the forestry community will miss him. He was a member of Murrells Inlet Presbyterian Church where he was an Elder and a member of the Session, a member of the Little Chapel restoration committee, an usher, and he participated in The Presbyterian Men. Col. Inabinette loved sports, especially the South Carolina Gamecocks. He had loved fishing since childhood. Wherever the Air Force took him he always managed to find fishing buddies. He also loved to travel. His most memorable travel experience was when he took his family to the Swiss Alps village of Grindelwald from which his family originated in the 1700's, and where they visited with twentieth century Inabnits. He also enjoyed woodworking, making things for his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of forty five years, Arden Walker Inabinette; a daughter, Rachel Inabinette, son-in-law Sid Mullins, grandson Whit, and granddaughter Flynn all of Charleston, SC; a son, David and daughter-in-law Gretta of Elizabeth City, NC; a brother, Barry of Pinopolis, SC; a niece, Lisa Floyd (Tom) a nephew, Brantley Inabinette; a great niece, Tricia; two great nephews Brady and Colin and many cousins and friends.

A memorial service with military honors will be held at Murrells Inlet Presbyterian Church at 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 19, 2012; the Reverend Tom Thornton officiating. The family will receive friends in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Murrells Inlet Presbyterian Church, PO Box 418, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576 or to Hollings Cancer Services patient Support Program, 86 Jonathan Lucas St. Charleston, SC 29425.

An online guestbook is available at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries

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

Previous Events

Service

MAY **19**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Murrells Inlet Presbyterian Church

P O Box 418

Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

(843) 651-3751

Tribute Wall

GW

“ I have such wonderful memories of Wayne at our Inabinette family reunion many years ago. He always had a smile on his face and happiness in his heart ..I know he is having a joyful time in heaven with family and friends...May pleasant memories and the knowledge that we will meet Wayne again but a comfort to all of us who loved him and miss his earthly presence.

Grace Inabinette Walker

grace inabinette walker - May 20, 2012 at 07:52 PM

CC

“ Words fail to express how much Wayne meant to me and so many others during his life. As his cousin, we grew up together on small farms in Holly Hill, SC. For over 60 years we shared many pleasant times together. From taking vacations together with our wives to shrimping in Bulls Bay to riding the dirt roads of Hobcaw to cruising the waterways from Conway to Georgetown or just sitting in rocking chairs watching the sun set from the deck of his cabin in the mountains, those memories will always be with me.

He wasn't just my cousin. He was my friend and no one had a better friend.

Charlie Clifton

Charlie Clifton - May 17, 2012 at 02:24 PM

BL

“ *Dearest Arden and Family,
As a friend of Wayne I am devastated by his untimely passing. He fought a long and hard battle, but now he is in a better place, and in God's care.
Millie and I will miss him and feel uncomfortable that we won't be able to attend the service, as we are leaving for Connecticut early that morning.
We will keep all of you in our prayers, and also be in contact with you soon.
Please stay strong.
Bob & Millie Larsen*

Bob & Millie Larsen - May 16, 2012 at 11:51 AM

TD

“ *I didn't know Wayne as Commander of the troops but he certainly had a command of the swamps where we shared our braun, sweat, and no tears! He was definitely the bravest soul in life and swamps everywhere that I had the pleasure to know and work beside, always positive, ever ready, and conquering every challenge in places scary to most, but tame to his undaunting spirit. He was a well of a man, deep, daring, and darling in so many ways to want to be like him in body, mind, and spirit. He was the measure of a man who probably measured as many trees as anyone on the planet excepting his good friend Will Conner. The two were a pair and ne're finer men in all the land. I hold dear the fond memories of our time together and fortune to pass his way in the stillness and majesty of God's most esteemed creations, the Bald Cypress and Southern Swamp.*

Tom Doyle, Forest Ecologist, USGS, National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA

Thomas W. Doyle - May 15, 2012 at 05:22 PM

JF

“ Wayne was the best Commander and friend I had Love you all and remember Alconbury.

James L. Finchum - May 15, 2012 at 07:08 AM

DW

“ Arden,
My condolences. I remember our days at The Air Force Academy so well!! Think of you all frequently.
Wayne Whetsell, MD
Fayetteville, NC

Douglas Wayne Whetsell - May 15, 2012 at 06:54 AM

RC

“ Wayne was a great friend and we had lots of good times together. We first met as families at the 3-month Staff Transportation School at Sheppard AFB, Tx in 1972. We then were stationed in Omaha, NE at SAC HQ together in the Transportation Directorate around 1980. Wayne and I alternated heading the Staff Assistance teams where we went out to Sac bases and evaluated the Transportation Squadrons. We did many things together as families with small children while in Omaha and had some great times, from BBQs to trips to the zoo to Arksarben events. Wayne and I got to take a couple of TDYs together and had a great time - almost to good! We visited the Inabinettes while they were stationed in England and us in Germany around 1985 and then again when they settled at Murrells Inlet and we were stationed in Virginia around 1989. Wayne was an Air Force Professional, a Transportation Officer of the highest order, and a lifelong friend and we will miss him. I savor my talk with him just a couple of weeks ago. So long Wayne, we'll meet up in heaven! Randy, Lt. Col, USAF (ret) and Mary Kay Cox

Randall J. and Mary Kay Cox - May 14, 2012 at 11:27 PM

KK

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Ken Krauss - May 14, 2012 at 05:24 PM

TH

“ *Wayne was without a doubt the best commander I ever had the honor of serving under. As a commander Wayne was firm not harsh, understanding not weak, understanding not intolerant, generosity not selfish. It was a honor to be called his friend.*

Tom W. Hemrick, CMSgt, USAF retired

Tom Hemrick - May 14, 2012 at 04:13 PM