

Al Tichenor

6/1/2024

Gents,

I just received a text from Shredder and he asked me to spread the news to our group that Al passed away yesterday at 1730.

Today's text from Shredder:

"Siko, I'm very sorry to inform you that our pal Al Tichenor, passed at 1730 yesterday afternoon. Al had been suffering from heart issues for quite some time, with an extremely low oxygen count. I never flew with Al, but we became fast friends shortly after my arrival in Fresno in the early 90s. Al did the majority of the engineering on Shredder Lake and was instrumental in the construction of the dock. A fine fellow indeed, I will miss him. I'm in Europe and didn't bring my laptop, so I don't have all of the email addresses for the GFL group. Can you please let everybody know that Al has flown West. Godspeed, Lieutenant Colonel Tishner!"

My first experience with Al was when I was enlisted in mid-80's and he took me for a T-Bird ride that I'll never forget. A colorful guy with a strong faith, so many neat experiences! May God bless Al and his family.

Throw a nickel on the grass for Al Tichenor!

Siko

6/1/2024

My first flight commander- absolutely unforgettable. A real loss. Please pass info on any service that is planned.

Peewee

6/1/2024

Thanks Siko and Shredder!

Yes:

“Lt Col Al Tichenor passed away peacefully Friday morning (5/31/24). Al flew RF-4’s in Vietnam as a GIB, one of the “lucky” UPT grads that got to fly the backseat of the Phantom. He then flew F-106’s out of Castle AFB before coming to the 194th. He was a multi-talented engineer, contractor, musician and decades long BSF Leader. We’ve lost another long-time loyal member of our Brotherhood.”

JAD

A few more comments:

“Hiked many a trail in the Sierras with Al and flew a lot of hours with this good man. He also built a lot of the houses GFLs and their families lived in over the years-including mine and Carolyns that we lived in for 28 years. A man of great character and everyone that knew Al was a better person for having him as a part their lives. He was a good and loyal friend to us all.”

Paul Carroll

“Also, Alfredo survived the infamous Army Guard engine out Huey landing on the North Fork of the Kings River, did a major remodel on our Sunnyside home and he built our cabin.”

Howdy

“RAMS, RUMS, VAMS, VUMS, highly effective Tactics that no other units (Navy,Army, Air Force or Marines) were using for a long time and tactics that became the standard. All from from Tich.”

Pork

“Al was a wonderful human being. Early on in the F106 days, Al started building homes. I had helped my Dad doing the same thing when in high school. Al hired me to help him with framing, in particular. That's when I really learned how to frame a house. He was a great teacher, at that, and especially in the airplane, and ground school. I have many fond memories with him, and I will miss him terribly.”

Pat

“My first flight commander- absolutely unforgettable. A real loss. Please pass info on any service that is planned.”

Peewee

PLEASE SHARE ANY AND ALL ADDITIONAL REMEMBRANCES !

6/1/2024

wow again.

Tich was also my *own* first flight cc back in '85, and a mentor from early on. A towering force in my own early years of flying. I'll never forgett.

Yet another pit in my stomach.

Thx for the update.

RIP Tich! Nickel on the grass!

JT

6/2/2024

Al was a good man. The best. He stood up for me several times. Once, ayers and posey were throwing thier weight around, trying to intimidate me. Tich got wind of it and tuned those fuckers up. "you have a problem, you come to me, and only me". You did not see him get mad very often, but when he did, look out. they never tried that shit again.

The Dr

6/3/2024

Then Capt Tichenor was assigned to show me around on my first visit to the 194th in the mid 1970's. He was a great guy then, and always was. In more recent years he and his wife Melinda became friends with my daughter's family since they lived fairly close together in the foothills. We formed a little "dinner group" and got together a few times per year for burgers and fries at The Forks on Bass Lake. When they were available, we were joined by Dave Cobb and also by Sandy Kowalis Hervatine. What a treat to share time and great memories with fellow GFL's and with my kids and grandkids.

And we had such great times on our treks to Telescope Peak – an 11,000 foot peak on the west side of Death Valley. Al, Bob Hervatine, Bob Watson, John Peterson and a few others whose names I can't remember did this 14 mile round trip from Mahagony Flat campground with 3300 feet of elevation gain for several years. Sitting around the campfire listening to Al spin his tales and play his guitar was priceless.

He will be so sorely missed.

Nibes

6/3/2024

Al was a fine human being indeed, principled and a warm heart.

Had the privilege of flying a *DACT* mission with Al when I was Lieutenant flying Hornets.

May he RIP.

RK

Dr. Scott Keller

6/5/2024

Starting in about the late 80's our family would go on camping trips with Al. He was always engaged with the kids and would explain the geology, weather and animal life. The kids loved it. One summer we were driving back from Lake Powell. The temperature was close to 120. My boys would take turns riding in Al's old truck named Olive. Olive did not have AC so they drove with all of the windows open. To keep cool, Al had a water spray bottle that had a battery driven fan. So whenever you got hot, you would spray yourself. The boys thought it was the coolest thing.

Forty years later they still remember Al and our trips. When I notified my son of Al's passing, he responded -

"He was a great man. A true example of how enthusiasm, knowledge, and positivity make the world a better place." - Dave Gore

Well said.

Curly

6/7/2024

Fellow Griffins,

Sadly, the 194th FS Griffins recently lost another friend and great fighter pilot. Al Tichenor flew West last week. Those of you who knew 'Alfredo' know what a wonderful and fine fellow he was. Coming to the Fresno Air Guard after flying RF-4s in SEA, Al checked out in the F-102. He went on to fly the F-106, F-4D, and the F-16A.

Services for Al Tichenor will be Saturday June 29th at 11:00AM at St Michael the Archangel Church, 5073 N. Palm Ave, Fresno, CA 93794. Reade and Sons is overseeing the funeral plans. An obituary should be posted soon.

Burial will be Monday July 1st at 11:00AM at San Joaquin National Cemetery, 32053 West McCabe Road, Santa Nella, CA 95322.

Al is survived by his wife Melinda and two children.

Nickel

B.O.B.

Aka Jim McNab

6/10/2024

I remember Al as a dominant force in the squadron. There was never any question about what was the right thing to do. Missions always briefed meticulously and executed. Although, whenever Al was briefing, the question on everyone's lips was, "What time does the 8 o'clock briefing start?"

Listening to Al's lectures at BSF was always fascinating. Always finely researched and interesting. A natural teacher.

As the new guy in the F-106 - I remember being down at George AFB on alert with Al. We were in the kitchen having dinner when, all of a sudden, a funny look came over his face and he said, "Have you ever wondered how much energy the brakes have to absorb with a no drag chute landing?" I thought to myself, "Uh, no." And without missing a beat he grabbed a handful of napkins, yanked the pen off his arm and proceeded to start in on calculating the actual footpounds. It only took him a few minutes to come up with some astronomical number of something to the umpteenth power footpounds, while my eyes had fogged over 15 seconds in. With that, he sat back with a satisfied look and finished off his sandwich as if it was no big deal. Just another day at the office. :)

Al will be missed.

Aileron

6/10/2024

I recall very early in my time in the Air Guard, Al made me feel welcomed. He also kept inviting me to "this little Bible study" that some of the fellows went to. Finally, just to appease him I went one evening and to my surprise, it turned out there's like a hundred men there and Al was leading it. An even bigger surprise was that Al presented it in a manner not like I had seen in church before, but more as information to be applied to everyday living. But more than just lectures, Al demonstrated those principles in all of his activities.

In seeing his professional and military resume the other day, I was reminded of what a multi talented, humble and courageous patriot that Al was.

I will miss not being able to dial him up for a bit of counsel as often happened through the years.

Ray B.

