



# Thomas Mikita

JUL 20, 2016



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## Thomas Mikita

JUL 20, 2016

**T**homas Mikita, 95, passed away on July 20, 2016 in Cornelius, North Carolina. He was preceded in death by his wife of 33 years, Audrey C. Mikita of Waikoloa, Hawaii, parents John and Julianna Mikita, originally from Czechoslovakia, siblings Mary, Ann, Sue, Andy and Pete. He is survived by sister Emma Bubon of Des Moines, Iowa, his three children, Mark (Lindsay) Mikita, Tammy (Mark) Cozens, and Michael (Patti) Mikita, and five grandchildren.

Born in Melcher, Iowa, Thomas attended Melcher High School and soon thereafter joined the Navy. He was commissioned as an ensign in 1944, and taught instrument flying to young cadets in the BT-13 (the Vultee Vibrator) and the SNJ. Other planes flown in the Navy included the Howard DGA-15, Beechcraft D-18, and the DC-3. As World War II was winding down, Thomas thought his Navy experience had ended. He moved to Chicago with his wife Ruth and learned the skill of tool and die making while working for Western Electric. A few years later, he was called back to service for the Korean War. There, as a Lieutenant (junior grade), he transported naval officers across the U.S. in DC-3s.

Soon thereafter, in 1950, he began his airline career with Roscoe Turner Airways in Indianapolis. As companies grew and merged, he worked for Lake Central Airlines, Allegheny Airlines, and US Air. He flew the DC-3, Convair 580, Douglas DC-9, and the Boeing 727. His airline career spanned 49 years.

In retirement, he enjoyed life on the big island of Hawaii for approximately 35 years.

His family expresses special thanks to Autumn Care of Cornelius, North Carolina and Hospice and Palliative Care Lake Norman for their love and support.

Interment will be at West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, Kona, Hawaii.



## Obituary

**Thomas Mikita**

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Online condolences may be made at [www.jamesfuneralhome1kn.com](http://www.jamesfuneralhome1kn.com).



## Tribute Wall

Thomas Mikita

JL

**Jon Ludlam** posted:

Dear Mikita Family and friends, Tom told me whilst he was in his 50's that raw cabbage and potatoes lent themselves to longevity. He may have been onto something. Aside from being an excellent pilot, employee, and human being, Tom exuded wisdom, honor and character. Tom held himself to a MUCH higher standard than any moral, statute, or any other standard could. He had honor beyond limitations. As a former director whilst Lake Central Airlines was an employee owned airline, Tom was a corporate director. Tom had an unabiding love and respect for our company and judged fellow employees by their loyalty to their company and work ethic. Joe Rahall had a formula for voting a pilot into the union. "If every pilot was like this pilot would we still have a company?" If the answer was yes then Joe would call for that person's admission into the union. Tom exceeded that standard a hundred times over. Tom's work ethic was unparalleled, all the while being compassionate, pleasant, and considerate. Tom NEVER had to back up to the pay window. He earned EVERY penny that he was ever paid and MUCH MORE. I am blessed and honored to have known him, and if every one was like him the world would be a much better place. GOD bless his soul, please forgive him his sins, and please receive him into your kingdom O'Lord . AMEN

July 24 at 12:56 AM

SK

**Suzanne Krpan** posted:

To my cousins: My deepest sympathy goes out to you guys. I will miss him lots. Especially our phone conversations and his visits to Iowa. The whole family always gathered when Uncle Tom came back with a bucket of Kentucky fried chicken to eat and hear all of his stories. We had lots of laughter with him. Miss him greatly... Love you guys Suzanne Krpan

July 23 at 7:23 AM

LH

**Leslie Hayes** posted:

I'm so very sorry to hear about Tom's passing. He was always kind to me, and I enjoyed talking with him. I'm thinking of you Michael and Tammy and family at this difficult time. I know that Tom is in a better place, I know how much he loved God. May peace be with your family. God bless you all.  
Leslice Coull Hayes

July 22 at 4:45 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Thomas Mikita**

ML

**Mike And Sharon Leahy** posted:

Extremely sorry to hear of Tom's death. last I talked to him he had called me about Audrey's death and that he was coming to the north Charlotte area to be near family. I was expecting to hear from him. We had several enjoyable evenings with Tom and Audrey. I also worked for the airlines and we knew each other since Indianapolis. Met again at Church in Huntersville. Our sympathies to the family. Mike and Sharon Leshy

July 21 at 12:28 PM

CB

**Cathy Bubon** posted:

My Mikita Cousins, So very sorry to hear of Uncle Tom's passing. 95, wow...what a long full life. Longevity appears to be in the Mikita genes I guess. I am remembering at this very moment one of your family trips to Iowa. It always seemed to be such an event when the Mikita's came to visit. Your Dad, my Grandma, Aunts Sue and Ann were sitting at Grandma's kitchen table, doubled over laughing. Not sure what was so funny but it made me laugh because those Mikita girls could LAUGH! And not little dainty ladylike laughs...they were big and LOUD! Makes me smile to think that all who have passed could be laughing big and loud right now. Thinking of you all, Cathy

July 21 at 11:18 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Thomas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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