



# LTC Herbert Curtis Needham

MAY 15, 1932 - JUN 22, 2021



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## **LTC Herbert Curtis Needham**

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**H**erbert Curtis Needham, died on June 22, 2021 of Dementia. LTC Needham was born in Pilot Mountain, NC on May 15, 1932 and was a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also did Graduate study in economics at George Washington University, Washington, DC.

LTC Needham graduated from the Air Force Flight Training Program, and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in February, 1956. He went on to advanced flight training in F-86 fighter jets, and flew them for several years. He later transitioned into larger passenger and transport aircrafts. During his 26 year career in the Air Force, LTC Needham served in several states within the United States, as well as in Vietnam, the Philippines, the Portuguese Azores, and at Midway Island. He flew his passenger and transport aircrafts to dozens of foreign countries, including Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Great Britain, Spain, France, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Dominican Republic, Panama, Peru, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia and many of the Pacific Islands.

In LTC Needham's view, his assignment to the 89th Military Airlift Wing at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, DC, the so-called 'Presidential Wing', was his most memorable. While in this assignment, he flew many US and foreign dignitaries to locations throughout the United States, Canada and Latin America. A short list of his passengers would include Vice Presidents Gerald Ford and Nelson Rockefeller, Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, the Nixon family, Senator Strom Thurmond and his wife Nancy, Israel's Golda Mier, Jordan's King Hussein, and the Shah of Iran, along with many others.

LTC Needham's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal/AF Commendation Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Expert Markmanship Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal/Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross and others.

He was a proud and patriotic citizen of his country, loved his country's flag and the United State Air Force. He was a staunch defender of conservative values.



## Obituary

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After retirement from the Air Force, LTC Needham pursued a career as a real estate developer with his two sons Mark and Scott. He continued to be active in operation of the company until 2018. He was one of the developers of Cornelius Woods, an active adult community of 110 homes in the vicinity of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church.

LTC Needham also continued his passion of flying until 2019. He continued to maintain his Pilot's License and his Flight Instructor's License, and was a member of the pilot's club The Quiet Birdmen, as well as being a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Experimental Aircraft Association, the Dadaelian Society, and a life member of the Air Force Association.

LTC Needham was a devout Christian and member of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Cornelius, NC. He was a member of the Don Bridger Sunday School Class and completed his training and was recognized as a Stephen Minister.

LTC Needham is predeceased by his mother, Ardina and father, Arthur Needham.

LTC Needham is survived by his loving wife Barbara (aka DB), two sons, Mark and his wife Lee Needham, and Scott and his wife Marilyn Needham of Mooresville, NC, and stepdaughter Julie Hensley and her husband Winston Hensley of Indian Trail, NC. He is also survived by one sister, Carol Hooker and her husband Douglas of Pilot Mountain, NC. He has two grandchildren, Kristen Saragoni and her husband Nick of Mooresville, NC and Curtis Lee Needham, of Charlotte, NC, and two step grandsons, Andrew and Grayson Hensley of Indian Trail, NC.

The Memorial Service to celebrate Curt's life will be held Monday, July 5, 2:00 PM at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 19600 Zion Avenue, Cornelius, NC. Military burial will follow at the church's cemetery and a reception afterwards in the Family Life Center at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Building Fund, 19600 Zion Avenue, Cornelius, NC 28031.

James Funeral Home is caring for the family and obituary lovingly written by the family.




## Events

**LTC Herbert Curtis Needham**

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### Memorial Service

 **Monday**, July 5, 2021

 2:00 PM ET

 **Mt. Zion U.M.C.**  
19600 Zion Ave., Cornelius NC 28031





# Tribute Wall

## LTC Herbert Curtis Needham

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**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Needham family.



June 30 at 2:56 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Needham family.



June 30 at 8:40 AM



**Djb** posted:

Curtis Needham shall forever remain the Knight in Shining Armour who captured the forever love of his beautiful wife Barbara, my Forever Best Friend Since 3rd Grade. Gentleman - Scholar - Captain - Husband - Father - Teacher - Friend - Faithful Lover of God "Curtie" represents All That Is Good and Best of Class. Curtis constructed his life on the most stable of foundations: TRUTH - GOD - LOVE - FAMILY - FAITHFULNESS. Curtie lives on in Christ Jesus. He will be greatly missed and forever loved by the many hearts he touched. DJB

June 27 at 5:57 AM



**Barbara Needham** June 28 at 3:49 PM

Thank you. Beautiful!



**Adelle Webb** June 27 at 9:05 AM

We give thanks for all of Curt's gifts to so many throughout his lifetime, his military career, and his business acumen. So glad to have known him. His light shines! My sympathy to Barbara and his sons, and other family members.



**Judy Aho** lit a candle in honor of Herbert.



June 24 at 3:33 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Needham family.



June 24 at 11:24 AM



**Christopher Hudson** posted:

Curt was a gem of a person and one of the first friends I made on joining the CLT Hangar in the mid-'80s. He went out of his way to welcome this and other newbies with good-natured humor and gusto and was always a terrific ambassador for aviation and for our august brotherhood at QB. He will be missed. Chris Hudson

June 24 at 7:42 AM



**Rick & Linda Jordan** posted:

Scott, Marilyn and Family, Those we love remain with us  
For love itself lives on, And cherished memories never fade  
Because a loved one's gone. Those we love can never be  
More than a thought apart, Far as long as there is memory,  
They'll live on in the heart. Our Deepest Sympathy,  
Rick & Linda Jordan

June 24 at 6:08 AM



**Margi Kyle** posted:

Barbara, I am so sorry for your loss. I have enjoyed the time we spent together and always loved seeing you both in church. You must feel very lonely but you are not alone. We are all here for you.  
Margi Kyle

June 24 at 5:27 AM



**Phyllis B. Deaton** posted:

Barbara and family, Bob and I extend our sincerest sympathies in the loss of Curt. We really enjoyed our many conversations with him before and after Sunday School. He was a very special man who will be greatly missed. Our love and prayers as you go through these difficult days.  
Phyllis Deaton

June 23 at 6:27 PM



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**Marian Orr** lit a candle in honor of Herbert.

I am Curt and Barbara's next door neighbor in Cornelius. When they moved in I was overjoyed that they were so kind and welcoming to me! They have become chosen family members and are truly wonderful people! Curt was an exceptional man- dignified, honorable, warm, interesting, accomplished and he ALWAYS made people feel appreciated and welcome. I enjoyed hearing stories about his flying adventures and all of the famous people he met. But honestly, those people should have been honored to fly with and know Curt! He was a class act and I feel privileged to have known him. I will always remember and love you CURTIE! My heart hurts that I will never see you next door again. ☐☐☐  
Love, Marian Orr



June 23 at 4:58 PM



**Barbara Needham** June 28 at 3:51 PM

Thank you. Beautiful words.



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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