



Stanley Ray Van Den Brink

March 4, 1949 - January 15, 2024

Stanley Ray Van Den Brink passed away on January 15, 2024. He was born on March 4, 1949 in Sioux City, Iowa, and grew up in East Lansing, Michigan. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ceel and Ruth Oliver Van Den Brink of East Lansing, MI.

Stan worked for AT&T, retiring after 32 years. His job moved him to Conyers, Georgia, in 1990, where he met his wife, Francisca, and has lived ever since. He was also a U.S. Army veteran.

Stan loved to fly and was a pilot of small airplanes and gyroplanes. In 2005 he bought a lot at Monticello Sky Ranch (GA06), a private airstrip, and built a hangar. More recently he worked on building a loft apartment inside the hangar. He particularly enjoyed flying gyroplanes and attended many fly-ins.

He had a real talent for home projects. A stickler for details, he designed and constructed built-in bookcases and cabinets, remodeled the kitchen and added a sun porch. There was not a motor that he couldn't start or repair! He also loved motorcycles, owning many different ones all his life.

RV travel was one of Stan's interests. He and Fran enjoyed long trips to Alaska, Montana, Iowa and Colorado. They camped on Jekyll Island, Georgia, every November for 25 years. His love of all vehicles included Corvettes,

especially his custom ordered 2015 1LT-Z.

Stan's greatest adventure was a solo trip in 2010 to Alaska on his Suzuki Burgman 650 scooter. The border guard said that was the first scooter he had ever seen to cross! He camped along the way, as well as visiting with family in Iowa and some old friends near Homer. He kept a daily diary of the journey, describing in detail his adventures.

Stan loved his family. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Francisca Jordan Van Den Brink; daughter, Debra Lee Van Den Brink (Clint Wirtz); sisters, Jean Frenz (Chip), Joanie Reid (Jim Inderhees), Jane Livingston; stepson, Sam Vassy (Kathy); grandson Van Wirtz; step-granddaughters Ashley and Frog Vassy; and many nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles and in-laws left to cherish his memory. He will also be missed by many good friends, as well as rescue dog Gracie, who 'chose' him 14 years ago.

No public memorial service is planned.

Cemetery Details

Atlanta Crematory

1040-A Main Street
Stone Mountain, GA 30086

Tribute Wall

BH

“ STAN: His summertime visits to Walloon are occasions to remember--his RV fresh off a trip to Alaska (and back), tales of camping along the Alaska Highway, plans for the next adventure. His free spirit and determination to go where and in ways no one in our family had ever done, his joy in tackling all the challenges were then and are forever etched in cherished recollection.
Barbara and Jerry Hoganson, in-laws of his sister, Jean

Barbara Hoganson - January 19, 2024 at 08:40 PM

JC

“ Stan and Fran offered such welcoming hospitality. Once I stayed several nights with Stan as our wives were off doing "wiffey" things (his words as I remember). Besides showing me his planes and workshop, he took a genuine interest in a collection of trains I bought. Stan at that time ate at 4 pm daily and then went to bed for the night. The perfect host.

John Childrey - January 18, 2024 at 11:09 AM

MC

“ Until Francisca met Stan she happily acknowledged she was a messy housekeeper and specialized in bologna sandwiches. When I asked how things were going living with a Netherlands ancestry husband, she responded, “ I now know why they call it Dutch Cleanser, and he’s a great cook!”
I’ll fondly remember Stan’s big smile and the special potato salad he made for a New Year’s Day potluck at my house.

Mildred Coleman - January 17, 2024 at 10:10 PM

SS

Francisca, please accept my sincere condolences. The obituary tells me that you had a rich and fulfilling life together.

Susan Stephenson - January 18, 2024 at 11:07 AM

SS

Stan was my best and oldest friend from High School. We sat next to each other in home room at East Lansing High School and arm wrestled every morning. We were Best Buds throughout our lives. I worked for Michigan Bell Telephone and talked Stan into going to work there as well. We built a raft in my back yard while in the 10th grade, tied it to the top of my Dads station wagon, and my Dad then drove us to the Red Cedar River on Michigan States campus. We loaded it into the river and floated it for several miles before it came apart. We argued every day in school as he was a Chevy man and I was a Ford man. He was stubborn as a mule and one of the smartest persons I've known. He was Dutch and proud of it. When he had moved to Georgia he took me flying in his plane and riding on his pontoon boat as well. I think the smartest thing he did was to marry Fran. The last few calls he expressed that Fran was the most important thing in his life and he would put her first in his life. I will miss him terribly.

Steven E. Stansfield - January 24, 2024 at 07:29 PM

JE

I met Stan when I transferred to Rockdale DACS. I believe he had a 28' boat. I do not remember the details, maybe carburetor problems. Rode on the motorcycles some. Aircraft and hangar construction. Fran has pix! Good that John D. had a tractor with several tower sections to get it going. Fran brought us lunch and drinks. Stan built his storage and work area. Later Stan was building an upstairs apartment. I, the skinny one was on top of the wood framing to nail those OSB sheets to the rafters. I received a few dents from the hangar bolts. I also crawled under his RV to search for something. Once again I tried to puncture a hole into my skull. We did quite a few things. His scooter ride to Alaska was amazing. He was a great guy.

John E. - January 25, 2024 at 06:48 PM