



SMSgt Don Shanks

23 November 1942 - 22 October 2002

SMSgt Don Shanks, 59, passed away Tuesday, October 22, 2002, at his home in Meridian, Idaho, of natural causes. Don was born in Grand Island, Nebraska, to Robert and Lavena McCurdy Shanks. He was raised in Grand Island and graduated from high school in 1961.

He always had a love of planes and flying. It was this love that led him to serve his country in the US Air Force for four years. After the Air Force, Don joined the California Air National Guard where he worked as a flight engineer in the 129th Rescue Wing for 20 years. He was also employed by United Airlines as an aircraft mechanic for 32 years. After Don's retirement from the Guard in 1993, they moved to Meridian, Idaho.

Don was an excellent pilot and loved to fly. He was active in scouting and served as leader for his sons' scout troops. He enjoyed woodworking and restoring old cars. Don is survived by his wife of 39 years, Barbara; his two sons, Don (Julie) and Mike (Jackie) Shanks; four granddaughters; two brothers, Larry and Bob Shanks; a sister, Vicky Sok; and several nieces and nephews.