



Mr. William Ted Whorley

July 9, 1952 - January 30, 2014

Chief Master Sergeant William Ted Whorley (Retired), age 61, of Shelbyville, TN, died Thursday, January 30, 2014, at the Murfreesboro Veterans Hospital.

Visitation will be 11 AM – 2 PM Monday, February 3, 2014, at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel, with the service immediately following.

Ted was born July 9, 1952, in Lincoln County to William A. Whorley and Ruth Whorley. He was preceded in death by his father, W. A. Whorley. He is survived by his mother, Ruth Whorley; son, Todd (Vicky) Whorley; daughter, Angie Whorley (Crystal Sudberry); grandchildren, Kayla, Colton, and Ashton Whorley; step grandchildren, Kayla and Kylie Ray, Keirra and Douglas Bowen, and Madison Sudberry; sisters, Pat (Joe) Looney, Pam (Danny) Jones; nieces, Shannon Jones and Shannon (Charlton) Calhoun; nephew, John (Brooke) Looney; great nieces, Caitlin and Courtney Calhoun, and Lily Reese and Lawson Looney; his significant other, Carol Sims.

Ted enlisted in the United States Air force in 1970. He graduated in May 1971 as a boom operator. He completed SAC's Leadership School and NCO Academy. He served as a flight supervisor, instructor boom operator and training superintendent until June 1990. He spent the rest of his service in various positions until retirement in 1997. He was the recipient of the Vietnam Service Medal. Other career accomplishments include the Air Force

Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He retired as Chief Master Sergeant.

Honorary Pallbearers: Jimmy Craddock, Avery Sanders, Gene Zanchett, Mike Head, Glen Pinkston, and all other loyal members of the Moose Lodge #2197.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Loyal Order of The Moose Loge# 2197, 1104 HWY 82, Shelbyville, TN 37160, or to St. Jude's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Miss you buddy, god bless you and family, Jimmy C*

Jim Craddock - January 25, 2017 at 03:35 PM

JF

“ Ted (the Chief, he was a TSgt when we first met) mentored me and guided me during the early years of my career.

The best story I can remember about him occurred in Feb of 1981.....I was a new copilot in the 911ARS and was scheduled to go on my first alert tour after being rushed through the cert process. It was caught by the Ops Officer (Col Dave Casperson) that I needed to update my landing currency in order to be eligible for the tour.

So...they stuck this young and naive young man on a training flight with S-101 (Maj Swens, Capt Rudd, Capt Antell, and TSgt Whorley) to get one touch and go. I sat dutifully in the jump seat during the mission and kept my mouth shut. After returning to the pattern, I sat through multiple landings by the primary pilots until finally Stan Swens motioned for Dwayne Rudd to get out of the right seat and allow me to sit down. I endured several minutes of abuse since this was my first approach in the jet since leaving Castle AFB...seems the entire crew was waiting for me to slam one on the runway (commensurate with my total lack of experience.)

I got situated and took the controls and flew the best ILS I could muster. About 3 miles out on final, the boom operator keyed the interphone and asked me to look over my shoulder. Both he and the navigator had their helmet bags over their head because they "couldn't bear to watch..." A great yuk at my expense for sure.

But I got the last laugh and rolled one on...gotcha Ted!....I will always remember Ted looking at me sideways with one eye closed saying "are you sure you want to do that?" He did it many times and helped me every time. Stationed with you in two different jets at two different bases, I got used to your guidance....

I will miss you probably more than any crewman I ever served with....

I look forward to having a drink with you again some day Ted. God

keep you....

Jeff Franklin, Col, USAF, Ret

Jeff Franklin - April 19, 2016 at 07:48 PM

MA

“ *Was looking up old crew members and was shocked to see Ted's obituary. We crewed together at Seymour Johnson AFB during the late 70's.*

I have always thought of him as family. My condolences to his family, he was not only a fellow crew member, we were friends.

Mark Antell

Mark Antell - November 13, 2014 at 01:04 PM

MH

“ I last saw Ted about 5 years ago when he came to Bossier for a golf tournament. He was shocked when he saw me at his hotel room door, and said, "Mark, how in the world did you ever find me!" I wanted so much to take him out to dinner that night, to let him know how much I respected him, to show appreciation for the lasting impressions he made upon us all. But, as it was, he had a busy schedule, and it wasn't possible. We shook hands, and that was the last time that I would ever see our friend.

On the night that I heard of his passing, the memory of those so few minutes flooded my heart. I told my wife that somehow I had to get to his funeral. By the time we found out about the arrangements, it was too late. I would have only four hours to get from Bossier to Nashville. I hope that those short few minutes was enough to say what i didn't get to say.

I now try to make a greater effort to show the respect, appreciation, and love for my friends while we are still here. We are not guaranteed another tomorrow.

Mark Hoffman

Mark Hoffman - September 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Everyone leaves footprints in your memory, but the ones that leave footprints in your heart are the ones you will truly remember. ~ Ted..If tears could build a stairway,
And memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to Heaven
And bring you home again. ~ Ted you are such a wonderful person that I will always hold close in heart..until we meet again..love you my friend. I will always remember all the good times when you were stationed at SJAF base with you, and the rest of the gang like Ray T., Mark F., Dale C., Tom C., Eddie P., Robbie, & Bill..ect.... What a crazy bunch of guys.. but you've got to love them. :))) God Bless you & and may God watch over your kids & Family Always !!



Sherry Garris - September 14, 2014 at 11:22 PM

JC

“ What can I say Uncle Ted you were the greatest,trained me on 135's, and the the KC-10. I will miss you. The best chief in the Air Force. Booms stowed moving forward!!!

Jon Calcote - September 04, 2014 at 07:37 PM

 P.d.
Anglea

“ Condolences to Ted's family. I met Ted at Leadership school in the mid 70's and considered him to be a good friend-he will be missed.
PD Anglea

P.d. Anglea - August 06, 2014 at 10:15 AM

CM

“ Ted was always there in good times and bad. He always had my back. Condolences to the family I know Ted will be missed.

Charlie Marrone



Charlie Marrone - February 07, 2014 at 10:25 PM

RD

“ Everyone loved Ted. He was kind, respectful and always delighted to see you again. And it showed! He praised his brothers in blue and will not be forgotten. Heartfelt condolences to his mother, Ruth, and family.

Roy Dixon

Roy Dixon - February 05, 2014 at 12:44 PM

RW

“ Uncle Ted brought me under his wing when I arrived a young "stupid boom operator" at KBAD. Years later, when he returned for a visit, he drove right up to the squadron in his Jimmy pick up, did a donut in the commanders parking spot, looked at me and said "Here you go Airman, make me proud" The Chief never changed from the day I met him until we last met. I'll never forget Chief telling another young airman who questioned Ted's judgement in the airplane. "Well apparently this NAMETAG ain't big enough Airman!" You can still see the skid marks on the ramp when the airman drove away.

Leadership, kindness, a great spirit and humanity.

I'll listen to music later Ted, and yes, it will have a fiddle in it.

Bob Wolfe
Bonaire, Ga

Robert Wolfe - February 04, 2014 at 04:33 PM

MP

*Bob! Great to see your comments! Not enough room on the whole Internet for all the "Uncle Ted" stories. Send me your details. I want to contact old friends and stay in touch better because, as we can see - life is too short! Take care, Mike Perez
mike.perez@pentanasolutions.com*

Mike Perez - February 06, 2014 at 02:31 AM

RW

got it. thanks Mike. <http://www.cheers.org.nz/time-to-party/planning-a-party/come-together.html>

Robert Wolfe - February 08, 2014 at 12:50 AM

TM

“ I will truly miss Ted. He was someone I always looked up too and respected greatly. He was very well thought of by both officers and enlisted in the Air Force. He was a man among many and a Chief above all. He provided counseling over the years to so many people, myself included. He always had a way of making you feel like you were important to him. And that's because we were important to him. I could say so many more things but know what Ted would say if I did. I will miss you Ted, my brother, my friend.

Tom Minton

Tom Minton - February 04, 2014 at 02:21 PM

BC

“ We met Ted when my husband was still flying at Barksdale AFB. in the 90's. A true gentleman with great humor and friend. We will miss you Ted, a blessing to have know you, rest in peace my friend. BJ and Weezie Chapman

B J Chapman - February 04, 2014 at 06:45 AM

JM

“ I met Ted on an Alert Pad at Seymour Johnson AFB NC. He was a already a leader 1979. I asked him one day about cross training to aircrew. His recommendation became my new career. He told me to be a Flight Engineer. Maybe an odd suggestion from a boom operator. I did as he suggested. Some 7 years later, I cross trained to the KC-10A. I crossed path's with Ted my first day. Small world they say. Ted and I crossed paths again in CA. Some can say I was in trail. Ted Whorley was an amazing person. He was the most respected airman I ever knew. I am honored to have known him. "OFF we go into the wild blue yonder"; Rest In Peace my friend & mentor. THANK YOU CHIEF!

Jack Miller - February 03, 2014 at 09:21 PM

BB

“ *"Uncle Ted" was loved by a score of family and friends. Ted made friend everywhere he went and he would stand up for you anytime there was a perceived injustice, professionally or personally. Ted was the "Chief" that others aspired to be. May God hold you in the palm of his hand and watch over you in eternity.*

*Brad Baxter
SMsgt, USAF Ret*

Brad Baxter - February 03, 2014 at 11:07 AM



Ted was a wonderful person, leader and mentor to many. He influenced many and helped them achieve their goals and objectives. i appreciate his friendship and mentorship.

J. Worth Carter, Colonel (Retired) USAF

Worth Carter - February 06, 2014 at 11:30 PM

BA

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Bradford Arnsperger - February 03, 2014 at 10:08 AM



“ *Ted was a great friend, we had many, many good times together thru out our careers in the Air Force. You couldn't find a more caring and genuine friend, he will be missed by all.*

Mark Fleege - February 03, 2014 at 08:12 AM

JM

“ *While we mourn the loss of a fellow warrior, take solace in the fact that he will be forever with those who have gone before, and God willing we will be united with, when we too take that "last flight West".*

*Jon Mickley
Lt Col, USAF (Ret)*

Jon Mickley - February 02, 2014 at 07:14 PM

HD

“ I first met Ted in 1972 at Andersen AFB, Guam. I was sitting out by the tennis courts and he came up and started talking, was best friends every since. Going to miss you ole friend and buddy, hopefully we will all do a mission debrief again someday. Friend, buddy, and fellow Chief.

Herb Driskill - February 02, 2014 at 03:18 PM

DB

“ Yet another Boomer has gone to soar behind the Sun and reside with His Lord. Ted will be missed by his comrades in arms. Chief Whorley was a credit to God and Country. We of the IFR Boom Assoc. Salute you...
Dick Hermans Pres. IFR Boomers

Dick Hermans Pres. IFR Boomers - February 02, 2014 at 02:08 PM

RO

“ I will always remember ted as very good friend and will miss him, RIP my friend

Rene Hernandez , Fellow Boom Operator - February 02, 2014 at 09:57 AM

BA

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Bradford Arnsperger - February 02, 2014 at 09:42 AM

DO

Well put Bradford!

Dirk Olsen - March 02, 2014 at 06:46 AM

VM

“ *I will always remember the day I met you. Someone so passionate about your work, those that worked for you and your service to your country. You were a one of a kind, the quintessential Chief, mentor to your Boomers, a wonderful person inside and out, an avid golfer and someone who lived life to the fullest. I will see you again one day. Rest in peace my friend. To your family, may peace be with you and know that Ted was loved, appreciated and admired by many people and will be sorely missed by many.*

Virginia Minshall

Virginia Minshall - February 02, 2014 at 08:43 AM

TG

“ *I will never forget the first time I met Ted, it was Nov 1981 and a friendship was born. Ted has the personality of someone you cant help but be friends with and love, he was like a brother to me and always had my back. The biggest surprise was when he showed up at my wedding which I learned later was a 12 hour drive for him. we stayed in touch over the years and even after he was no longer my BOSS he kept on being my friend!!! RIP Ted Whorley, you are being missed but never forgotten!*

Ted Grzybek

Ted Grzybek - February 02, 2014 at 06:13 AM



“ *From all the Booms at MOS DET-1, Hurlburt Field, Fl. Ted...God Speed...Boom's Stowed, Leaving Position.
Rich Geracci, Devan DeBarr and Blaise Rohan.*

Devan Debarr - February 01, 2014 at 08:02 PM

PJ

“ *Patricia Jackson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. William Ted Whorley.*



Patricia Jackson - February 01, 2014 at 07:15 PM

BE

“ *Uncle Teddy, we called him. It was because he took care of us like an Uncle would. Annie, Tim (dancing bear) and many others will miss him. I called him after moving to Nashville, but never got over to see him.*

We love you Ted. The Uncle we have all needed at one time or another.

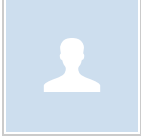
Betsy

Betsy - February 01, 2014 at 03:05 PM

CA

“ *Ted was a friend to anyone that needed a friend. May Gods Grace and Peace be with his family and friends.*

Clarcia Avery - February 01, 2014 at 10:31 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Mr. William Ted Whorley.



February 01, 2014 at 05:29 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Mr. William Ted Whorley.



January 31, 2014 at 11:33 PM

MP

“*Ted was the best friend I have ever had. We shared some great times in our Air Force days and even though we have been on opposite sides of the world for the past few years, Ted, Miss Ruthie and the whole family have not been far away from our thoughts and prayers.*

Ted was respected and loved by everyone for his experience, sense of humor and ability to put anyone at ease in any situation. Those were characteristics I always admired in Ted. We were a pretty awesome team in our Barksdale days and on the AMC IG Team!

Linda and I send our heartfelt condolences to Miss Ruthie and the family at this shocking loss we have all experienced. A hole that can't be filled will be in our hearts forever, but I am sure we all have fantastic memories which we always cherish.

As a tribute to Ted's unselfish and dedicated service to our country, I am flying our flag at half staff at my home in New Zealand for the next week.

Rest in Peace my old buddy! You were one of a kind. "Yoodeehoo"!

*Mike and Linda Perez
Auckland, New Zealand*



Mike Perez - January 31, 2014 at 04:05 PM

BA

Well said Mikey. Very heartfelt touch.

Without a doubt Tedley had a people-way about him. Lotsa' laughs for sure...and the boy could definitely tell a story. Those of us around him, even for a short time, somehow better for it.

Be well Mike; sorry for this loss - I know you and The Ted rode hard at one time.

Have thought of you through the years my friend.

Regards, Brad

*Brad Arnsparger
btapersonal@gmail.com
Facebook: Brad Arnsparger*

Bradford Arnsparger - February 02, 2014 at 09:29 AM



Hey Mike, well said, I'm at the airport waiting for my flight to Tennessee to attend Ted's funeral services. I was shocked when I hear the news, it really sucks, such a great and day too young to leave us, he will definitely be missed by all.

Mark Fleege - February 02, 2014 at 11:13 AM



Mike send me your contact info, we plan on coming to New Zealand either this year or next, would love to get together. mfleege@msn.com

Mark Fleege - February 02, 2014 at 11:17 AM

BA

Mikey...thanks for the note - I will for sure reply. And...sorry for your loss in Ted too. I know how tight you guys were. Life...sometimes we all wonder. And this, Tedley's early departure, is sure as hell one of those times. Be well Mike. Again, my compliments on your very touching tribute to the guy all of us will miss. Regards, Brad

Bradford Arnsparger - April 04, 2014 at 12:06 AM

JM

“ A great friend and comrade. Ted was the perfect Chief and friend, he had no problem squaring you away when you needed it and you could not find anyone better to help you solve your problems so you could get back to work. R.I.P Ted

My heart and prayers go out to the family.

Joel Montgomery, Chief (ret)

JOEL MONTGOMERY - January 31, 2014 at 08:06 AM

BB

Uncle Ted was the "Chief" that all other E-9s aspired to be. He'll always be remembered fondly by those that knew him.

Brad Baxter - February 02, 2014 at 09:44 PM

BS

Chief Whorley,

You will always be remembered and respected as a true leader to many. Thank you for your years of service and sacrifice and for always challenging each of us to to work harder. You will be missed but your legacy will live on in our hearts and minds. May your family find comfort in this challenging time and know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Bonnie Sills (formerly Campbell)

bonnie sills - February 02, 2014 at 11:17 PM

CR

To Family and Friends,

Today, while trying to locate my dear friend Ted for a 44 year Combat Crew Reunion, I learned the Lord called him home on January 30, 2014. I write this to you with tear-filled eyes and an aching heart.

In February 1972, I came out of the C-123K into a KC-135A assignment to the 97th Air Refueling Squadron at Blytheville AFB AR. I had the great fortune to become the new co-pilot for crew E-111. The AC was Capt Jim Duke, the Nav was 1Lt Ray Duffield, and the Boom was Sgt William T Whorley. We deployed almost immediately on a tour in SEA, spending most of the three months flying into the Gulf of Tonkin every day from CCK. The crew was split up when we got home. Ted and I stayed together and took on a great navigator, Bill Wear, and a newly upgraded AC, Bill Rogers, who had been just ahead of me in pilot training. After one tour in SEA, this second crew changed Navs, picking up John Deaton, who was still a 2nd Lt, and off we flew for a third trip in SEA. I cannot begin to tell the stories from those glory days. To spend three combat tours with Ted was a grand education, indeed. With Bill Rogers as our boss, we became the best crew in the USAF.

We were all proud of The Chief. Ted became a great leader early in his career out of necessity. He trained Bill Rogers as a new AC, Vance Renfroe as a new Co, and John Deaton as a brand new Nav. When Ted was the Super Chief at SAC, circumstances brought elements of the old crew together on the E-Ring of the Pentagon in the National Guard Bureau. Bill Wear was the Chief of Staff for the Air National Guard, John Deaton was the Director of Plans for the Air National Guard, and their Copilot was the Director of Operations and Programs for the Air National Guard. Bill Rogers, in the meantime, left USAF to earn his JD at Ole Miss, then returned to the USAF to cap a distinguished career. Bill is now retired to Amelia Island Golf and Country Club and I'm building a home just down the street. John is coming in 2016 for our 44th year celebration. And, Ted...Ted will be there with us. He is a friend for eternity.

Colonel Vance Renfroe - September 03, 2015 at 04:05 PM