



## Merle Lee Furry

October 1, 1938 - September 14, 2011

Merle was born in Oak Valley, Kansas and was raised a Kansas farm boy until moving from Kansas to Yakima, WA at age 14. In 1962 Merle joined the Navy where he served as a navigator-- and his love of aviation began.

In the late 1960's Merle worked for Boeing in Seattle, WA and obtained his pilot's license. He then was a pilot for United Airlines out of Oakland and one of his favorite flights was transporting gamblers back and forth to Las Vegas and other cities in Nevada.

In 1971 Merle became the owner of Sierra Aviation in Oakdale, CA until his "retirement" in the late 1990's, when he sold Sierra Aviation and continued working as an FAA licensed master mechanic at Modesto Airport facilities. He was still working at Modesto Aviation up to the time of his recent illness.

Merle is survived by his loving companion Nancy Shailor, his mother, Marguerite Furry, daughter and son-in-law Brenda and Clint Skutt, stepchildren Beverly Kidwell and Elizabeth Britt, brother-in-law & sister-in-law, John & Sharyn Slavick, and 5 grandchildren. Merle was preceded by his father, Lee Furry and his wife Ellen Furry and his son, Marvin Furry.

Merle's family would like to thank all his aviation friends for their camaraderie and friendship through the years.

# Comments

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“ I have known Merle since I first bought an airplane - a V-tail Bonanza. He has since taken care of every airplane that I have owned. He was not just a airplane mechanic but a real friend and gentleman! He even let me "help" with the annual maintenance inspections without charging me extra. I will miss stopping by the hanger to visit with him and learn a little more about airplanes. I will never forget him.

Blessings to all your family ,

**Frederick Mantz** - September 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM