



JERRY RICHARD CADICK

September 30, 1942 - August 4, 2015

Jerry Richard Cadick, of Penn Valley, CA, died suddenly in his home on August 4, 2015. He was 72.

Jerry was born in Evansville, IN, on September 30, 1942 to Pearl (Hopkins) (Cadick) Shourds and Jerry Richard Cadick. During childhood, his family and other close relatives lived on a large farm in Grandview, IN located along the Ohio River.

His early education was at a nearby two room schoolhouse. He then attended Rockport High School, graduating at the top of his class in 1960. According to Jerry, he paid for his tuition at Evansville College by selling two calves and a pig. Uninspired, he left college after one year.

What had captured his imagination was flying. At the age of 14 his uncle James took him flying in a biplane for the first time. They would fly very low and chase cattle around the farm.

To pursue this love Jerry enlisted in the USMC in 1962. Boot camp in Parris Island preceded infantry training in Camp Lejeune. In 1963 he entered the Marine Corps Aviation Cadet program (MARCAD) in Pensacola. He finished at the top of his class and was chosen Cadet Regimental Commander, already displaying leadership qualities. After several assignments and piloting various aircraft (T-34, T-2A Buckeye, F9F Panther, F-11 Tiger) he received his naval aviator wings in October 1964, and was promoted to second lieutenant. During the remainder of 1964-65 he served at El Toro MCAS, where he flew F-4 Phantoms. Starting in 1966, he would spend two consecutive tours in

Vietnam. The first tour was as a FAC (forward air controller), on the ground with the Third Marines, the second as a fighter pilot with VMFA 115, flying 192 combat missions in an F-4B Phantom.

Upon returning to the US he had many assignments including flight instructor, executive officer, personnel manager at HQ, and additional training. Some of the assignments included overseas travel to Japan, Europe, and the Middle East.

In 1978, he attended Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas after marrying Vicki May. After stops at Lemoore NAS, Camp Pendleton, and El Toro, he was promoted to full Marine Colonel and returned to command MAG 11 at El Toro MCAS, the largest Marine Air Group at the time. His responsibilities included nine fighter squadrons, 300 officers, and 4,000 Marines.

Though Jerry developed into a strong leader in the service of his country, his first love was flying jet fighter aircraft – he was a fighter pilot and a good one. Earlier in his career he had experienced at least two flying incidents that tested his ability to land nonfunctional aircraft while avoiding disastrous results. The first experience ended with Jerry landing a burning T-33 with no engine power in a corn field – by the time the power went out of the ailing engine he was simply too low to eject and had no choice in the matter. Two years later during a training dogfight in an A-4 Skyhawk, he found himself in the cockpit of another fighter jet without power. Instead of ejecting, he chose to land the aircraft, which by then had a fully seized engine. With no electrical control over the flaps he was able to glide in and land without further incident, thereby preserving the “14 year-long accident free record” of the fighter squadron. The squadron’s commander was understandably appreciative of his efforts and gave Jerry the call sign that lasted throughout the rest of his military career: Kamikaze.

He was known for greeting each new pilot in his command with a one-on-one flying exercise (dogfighting) so they could get to know each other in the only arena that counts in this line of work. Jerry once said "Fighter pilots, above all

else, know who among their peers are hunters and who are hunted".

At the height of his military career, tragedy struck. During an air show at El Toro in April 1988, before 350,000 onlookers, he was performing a solo aerial exhibition in an F/A-18 when the Hornet failed to exit a loop correctly. The tail of the plane struck the runway. Jerry had performed the maneuver many times before without incident. Although fortunate to survive the crash, his countless injuries proved to be severe, enduring, and life-changing. He later said of the accident, "I broke everything but my earlobes".

During his long and difficult convalescence he retired from the USMC a year after the crash.

Jerry founded the company Tactical Military Air Training Systems (TMATS) in 1991 and developed hardware to assist in the training of military fighter pilots. Though he invested much time and money into the project, it was eventually shut down in 1994.

Also in 1994 he became an air show pilot for Team America. He continued touring with this organization until 1997.

After divorcing from Vicki in 1995, he relocated to northern California, first in Somerset and then later in Penn Valley. He rode horses as much as possible in the earlier years there, but eventually had to give that activity up due to diminishing mobility that was a direct result of the 1988 airshow crash.

Earlier in his adult life he enjoyed many outdoor activities: riding horses, backpacking and cross-country skiing in the Sierras, hunting, fishing, shooting black powder weapons, and, of course, flying his own plane. His final years were spent in Nevada County, contributing to a lively blog and making friends on the internet, feeding the wild animals around his home, taking part in the local Tea Party movement, continuing his life-long enjoyment of history through extensive reading, and looking after his various pets.

He is survived by his former spouses, Jacqueline (Garner) Jarboe, and Vicki (May) Reynolds; son Stephen Goldberg (Cohen); and sister, Gwendalyn Jeffers. He is predeceased by his parents and former spouse Miriam Cohen.

Chapel of the Angels Mortuary and Crematory, Grass Valley, CA. The memorial will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 from 2:00-2:30 PM at the Miramar National Cemetery located at 5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA. Focus. Achieve. Fly. Semper Fi.

Tribute Wall

LO

“ I knew Jerry when was a flight student in Pensacola. He was quite proud of his achievements. I have a photo he gave me of his first flight solo taken at NAAS Saufley Field, Florida. I was trying to reach out to him to share memories and to see how he was doing at this stage in his life. Tragically I read of his death in 2015. Please share with his family my sincere condolences. Louise Barwick Ritz

Louise - February 01, 2022 at 03:21 PM

DP

“ DEIRDRE PRIEST lit a candle in memory of
JERRY RICHARD CADICK



DEIRDRE PRIEST - October 21, 2019 at 07:08 PM

LP

“ Jerry Cadick was my Skipper when he was a LtCol and I was a young Corporal in the Avionics Department in VMFA 323 at MCAS El Toro in the 80's when we were flying F4's.

He was a great Leader, a great Pilot, and a great Marine.

Bravo Zulu Sir.

Louis Phillips - December 04, 2016 at 07:16 AM

AM

“ Almost anybody who has known me for more than a week has heard my stories of flying with my hard charging difficult to please Advanced Training Instructor Jerry Cadick. He was incredibly tough at least in my opinion, once giving me a down for losing a few hundred feet under the bag while flying partial panel at night! What's a couple of hundred feet right? However, when then Capt. Cadick finally passed you, you knew it wasn't a gift.

Every so often I would do a search for him and today I succeeded but sadly I was about 8 months too late.

There is a lesson here for me and perhaps others as well.

Semper Fi Jerry (RIP)

*Alan Myers
USMCR (retired)*

alan myers - April 13, 2016 at 04:07 PM

RW

“ I too knew Jerry Richard Cadick. He was a class mate and fellow young man growing up In a small southern Indiana town.. Yes Grandview--Rockport Indiana. We both finished high in 1960,, then both off to college,, Yes its possible the selling of 2 pigs and a calf got JERRY that 1 year od college... Then off to the USMC...boot camp then officer cadit training.. The rest is written in USMC history and many FIGHTER PILOT bar room dog fights.. as all fighter jocks retold their dog fights over a cold beer. Jerry may you rest in peace,, God be with you ... Roy "Tom" Weatherholt USAF SMSGT Ret. a product of small town INDIANA..

ROY T WEATHERHOLT - December 03, 2015 at 03:27 PM

TM

“ I served with Col Cadick on a WESPAC tour in 1977-78 with VMFA 251. A fun guy with a great sense of humor. RIP Col. Semper Fi.

Terry McAllister - October 12, 2015 at 07:57 AM

NC

“ I served with the Colonel in VMFA-251 and we both went to the F/A-18 program at the same time. He was a great man. My condolences to those he left behind. Sen per Fi!

Neil Cuummings - October 10, 2015 at 10:18 AM

BR

“ Jerry was very kind to the Australians, including me, who trained at VFA-125 in 1984 & 1985. A great mate, professionally and socially. Sincere condolences to Jerry's family. Vale Jerry.

Brian Robinson

Brian Robinson - September 29, 2015 at 08:22 AM

RS

“ I knew Jerry's Mother, Father and Step-Father. Ruth Snyder-Wagoner, Evansville, In (formerly of Grandview and Rockport In.)

Ruth Snyder-Wagoner - September 26, 2015 at 03:26 PM

JJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jacqueline Garner Jarboe - September 25, 2015 at 06:39 AM

JC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Judy Crandall - September 24, 2015 at 07:15 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Chapel of the Angels Mortuary & Crematory - September 23, 2015 at 01:22 PM

David
Winnett

“ I had the honor of serving under the Colonel during a 1987 training deployment to Egypt. "Bright Star '87" was the name of the op. A joint training exercise with the Egyptian Air Force. I'll never forget the Colonel's incredibly upbeat leadership style.

From now until the day I join Jerry Caddick at the pearly gates, whenever I see the image of the great pyramids of Egypt, I will think of a "bright star" whom I once had the honor of serving with as a United States Marine.

*Fair Winds and Following Seas Colonel, and Semper Fidelis,
David K. Winnett, Jr.
Captain, USMC (Ret.)*

David Winnett - August 24, 2015 at 11:58 PM

CM

“ CHAPEL OF THE ANGELS MORTUARY lit a candle in memory of JERRY RICHARD CADICK



CHAPEL OF THE ANGELS MORTUARY - August 07, 2015 at 06:47 PM

BL

I am sad to be so late in expressing Sharon's and my condolences for Jerry's passing..., and for letting too many years go by since we talked for the last time. Kamikazi and I became friends sharing the Group Duty Officer job in Chu Lai in 1967. We cemented that friendship in Beeville as instructors (along with McIntyre, Lowther, etc.), where his announcing, "Kamikazi's in. Check your six!," meant you were in for a really tough fight. No nicer guy, better fighter pilot, or funnier jokester ever was part of my life. Memories of him and his contagious smile will always make me smile. Sharon and I will miss him.

Bill Leigh - July 26, 2016 at 02:34 PM

RS

I knew Col Cadick from our time together at HQMC. He flew me to Wright-Pat AFB before a Thanksgiving in 1972 to get his flight time in and give me time with my family. We went horseback riding at Quantico with his wife...from there they came to my condo where I prepared a dinner. Following the dinner I presented a "Baked Alaskan" dessert...his favorite as I understood it...which "BOMBED" big time. He was as good sport about it. He afforded me the opportunity to serve a tour in Europe (Stuttgart, Gy) which had a great impact on my life. First Sergeant Ken Zombro (USMCR) and I agree that he made significant impacts on our lives. May he Rest In Peace. 1stSgt Bob Sulser (USMCR) Sep2016

Robert Sulser - September 30, 2016 at 01:51 PM

JH

I saw in the latest issue of Semper Fidelis that Col Cadick died. I served with him at HQMC along with First Sergeant Zombro and First Sergeant Sulser. The Marine Corps had excepted some new fighter and he was going to the new squadron and he asked me to go with him. Gen Wilson become Commandant and told the Navy to keep the plane. He cut me loose to find my own way. I believe I was more disappointed than he was because I looked forward to continue serving with him. I have often thought of him over the years. He was a great Marine and an inspiration. RIP Colonel. MSgt Jerry Van Hecke USMC (Ret).

Jerry Van Hecke - October 03, 2016 at 06:21 PM

DO

A very Good Man. Respected Leader Fair and Honest

DenoBi Olegba - April 13, 2020 at 06:37 PM

DB

I served under Lt. Col. Caddick when I was in Seat Shop at VMFA-323 from 1981 to 1982 when the last F-4 flew out. I still have the Marine of the Month Award hanging up in my office today where it is signed by J. R. Caddick. I enjoyed serving under him. Semper Fi!

David Beahm - January 24, 2022 at 11:10 AM

BT

Glad to see this site with the tributes to Jerry, whom I knew via Tailhook. After his recovery I saw him again at a San Diego event and exclaimed, "My gosh, you look terrific!" His wife laughed and said that before the plastic surgeons started work, they wanted the best quality photo of Jerry. That was his promotion to major, so that's what he looked like!

Barrett Tillman - December 30, 2023 at 10:18 AM