



John Murray Mooney

April 29, 2019

"Pops" 1928 - 2019
Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend passed away this week at his home in Salt Lake City. Jay was born February 25, 1928 in Butte, Montana to Albert Silva and Johanna Murray Mooney. His family moved to Salt Lake City in 1935 when his father was appointed the first chief pilot of Western Airlines. Jay attended Judge Memorial Catholic High School graduating in 1946 with the James McGean Outstanding Athlete and Scholar Award. He later attended the University of Utah and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. At Judge Memorial, Jay met the love of his life Bernice Maher Mooney and they married on June 9, 1952 in the Cathedral of the Madeleine. Jay and Bernice were blessed to be the parents of five children. The family lived in Montana, New Mexico, Kansas and California before returning to Salt Lake in 1978.
Jay grew up around airplanes and learned to fly at a young age. He was passionate about flying both professionally and personally and enjoyed flying aerobatics in his Decathlon. Jay served his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War and was stationed at Edwards AFB. He had a distinguished career in aviation first as the co-owner of Butte Aero Sales and Service and later in the Los Angeles and Salt Lake City offices of the Federal Aviation Administration. Jay retired at the age of 80 after 46 years of service with the FAA where he was a check airman for Western, Delta and Skywest Airlines.
Jay was devoted to his family and his church, living a life filled with integrity, faith and compassion. He was an avid skier and fly-fisherman and enjoyed skiing fresh powder at Alta and Solitude and fishing in Montana well into his eighties. Thank you to Dr. Luras as well as the kind professionals at Huntsman and all his friends at Whole Foods who were part of his wellness journey. Jay is survived by his son James (Kimberly), and daughters Julie, Mary (John) Greer, Anne (John Sparano), grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife (Bernice), son (John Jr.), his parents, and brothers (Albert "Al", William "Bill" and Brien).
A funeral mass will be celebrated 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 7th, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 670 S. 1100 E., Salt Lake City. A vigil service will be held 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 6th at Neil O'Donnell & Sons Mortuary, 372 E. 100 S., Salt Lake City, where friends may call 1 hour prior. Interment: Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

SL

“ In Memory of Jay Mooney
Principle FAA inspector for WAL/DAL Airlines
Salt Lake City, Utah
5-6-19
To one of the Greatest, Compassionate FAA Inspectors I ever worked with. To the Hundreds of Check rides Jay did with me, regardless of Weather, City, or Time, between 2000 hrs. and 0600 hrs & available 7 days a week. To all the Sacrifices he made, in order for us at WAL/DAL to keep on schedule, with our Initial Training, Captain upgrade and Initial Operating Experience Requirements. I have never Respected anyone more or gained so much knowledge of FAA Expectations expected from a New WAL Check Airman as from Jay Mooney. He became my Mentor for the FAA. and was always there to clarify any misunderstandings I had of any FAA Regulations. Jay Mooney was an outstanding asset to the FAA as an Examiner and set an exemplary example as a Professional Pilot to all those he worked with. After 25 years working with Jay Mooney and 41 years knowing him, I will miss him dearly. Jay, I will hope to be joining you on my Final Flight !!!
Retired Captain Stephen Lutz
Flight Manager/ Check Airman
WAL/DAL Air Lines

Stephen D. Lutz - May 06, 2019 at 08:09 PM

KB

“ Jay was an inspiration and fine pilot. We did many training flights together out of SLC on the 737 and 727. Always honest and forthright. I look back on the time we spent together in the cockpit with fond memories. He will be missed. Not many of his fine character around.

Kirk Boman - May 06, 2019 at 08:01 PM

LP

“ One of the kindest, nicest person I have the pleasure knowing professionally and as a friend. He surely be missed by all who knew him. Thinking of you and your family on your flight West.

Laszlo Preysz - May 06, 2019 at 03:53 PM

GW

“ Jay was a great man to work with. We flew a lot of midnight training flights on the Boeing 727 out SLC. He was an excellent pilot and inspector to work with. A lot of great memories came back when I read of his passing.

Gary L Woodruff - May 02, 2019 at 02:30 PM