



Obituary for Nelson Bailes

Nelson Bailes, born in Belle, West Virginia, devoted his life to both his family and a distinguished career in the airline industry that spanned 34 years. Nelson began his aviation career with Mohawk Airlines, embarking on a professional journey that would become his lifelong passion. Over the years, he continued his service through the transitions and growth of the airline industry, working for Lake Central Airlines, Allegheny Airlines, and ultimately USAir. As a respected station manager, Nelson's career provided opportunities to live and work in numerous communities across the country. Throughout the years, Nelson and his family called many cities home,

including Morgantown, West Virginia; Nashville, Tennessee; and Dayton, Ohio. Eventually, they settled in Evansville, Indiana, where Nelson spent the longest chapter of his life and became deeply rooted in the community. Aviation was more than a profession for Nelson. It was a lifelong passion. A licensed pilot himself, he enjoyed flying his beloved Mooney aircraft as well as several other airplanes he owned throughout his lifetime. Few things brought him greater joy than taking to the skies, combining his love of flight with his spirit of adventure. Nelson also served as a reserve county sheriff deputy for Vanderburg County for many years. Nelson also shared a deep love of travel with his wife Laura, and young family. Together, they explored the world, creating treasured memories that lasted a lifetime. Their journeys took them to China, Australia, New Zealand, destinations throughout Europe, Belize, Nova Scotia, and Alaska, as well as to most of the states across the United States. He continued to cherish those experiences and his travels with his wife until her passing in May 2018. After retiring, Nelson and his wife moved to The Villages, Florida, where they enjoyed more than 20 years of active and fulfilling retirement. He embraced the vibrant lifestyle and made many lasting friendships. Nelson enjoyed golfing, playing pickleball, participating in card games, spending time with his flying club, and socializing with friends. His retirement years were filled with activity, laughter, companionship, and the same enthusiasm for life that had characterized his

earlier years. Known for his dedication, professionalism, and strong work ethic, Nelson earned the respect of colleagues and friends alike. Beyond his career accomplishments, he treasured the experiences and relationships built through a life of travel, service, and family. Nelson will be remembered for his commitment to those he loved, his pride in his work, his adventurous spirit, and the lasting impact he made on the many lives he touched throughout his journey. Nelson is survived by his two sons Greg (Michele) Bailes and Stephen Bailes; two grandchildren Jordan Bailes and Justin Bailes, and many other family and friends. A Celebration of Life will take place Saturday June 13, 2026 from 6:00 PM~9:00 PM at the Skylane Airport, 2020 Allens Lane Evansville, IN. It is open house style so please feel free to come and go anytime to share some food, drinks, and memories. Online condolences may be offered at www.websterfuneralhomes.com