

Archille "Dick" Paquette



Paquette, Archille "Dick", 67, retired from a career in aviation in 1999 and passed away Friday, November 12, 2010. Service, 1 p.m., Tuesday, November 16, Downing & Lahey Mortuary West. Graveside service, 11 a.m., Wednesday, November 17, Leavenworth (KS) National Cemetery.

Dick grew up in Michigan where he graduated from Concord High School in 1961 and attended Albion College. Upon graduation, he pursued his pilot's license and became employed by Continental Airlines in 1966. Later that year he was drafted into the Army and in 1967 attended infantry officer candidate school in Ft. Benning, GA. During his tenured military career, he served as platoon leader of the 2nd of the 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam where he was wounded in action in 1968 and was awarded the [Purple Heart](#) and numerous other medals. Dick was sent to a U.S. military base in Japan to recover from his wounds. He later was assigned as a pilot to a 2-star general in Korea where he flew a Beech King Air 90.

It was during this time that he met his future wife, Aecha. They were married in 1971. From 1973-1975, he served in the Panama Canal Zone as the Army's Director of Aviation Budgeting for all 27 military airports throughout Central and South America.

In 1977, Dick and his family moved to Kansas so he could continue to pursue his love of flying. During a 22-year career with Air Midwest Airlines (1977-1999), he worked his way up from co-pilot to president of the company from which he retired. He was also president of Florida Gulf Airlines based in Jacksonville, FL. During his retirement, he and his wife traveled extensively around the world, and he and his son spent a great deal of time enjoying his other passion which was railroading.

Dick is survived by his wife, Aecha, of the home; son, James and wife, Josie, of Clovis, NM; daughter, Catherine Griffith and husband, Phil of Roseda, CA; grandson, Avery; brothers, Charles and Edwin Paquette. Memorials to Great Plains Transportation Museum, 700 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67202. Tributes via www.dlwichita.com.

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