



Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory

January 1, 1944 - November 5, 2017

Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory, 73, of Bonita Springs passed away Sunday Nov. 5, 2017 peacefully in the arms of his wife, surrounded by his daughter, brother and sister-in-law. The son of the late Leo and Lucy A. (Watson) Gregory, Ty was born in 1944 Gainesville, FL and was raised in Winter Haven. He and his wife have been residents of Bonita Springs for the past 17 years.

Ty launched his distinguished and wide-ranging professional career first as a trapeze artist with the Florida State University circus as well as the Al G. Kelly and Miller Brothers circus. He was a member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

After graduation Ty joined the United States Air Force. Lt Col (Ret) Gregory served his country for 23 years as a pilot, squadron commander, and one-time parachute tester. He flew combat missions over Vietnam, earning a Silver Star and two Distinguished Flying Crosses. After retiring from the Air Force he embarked on a 25-year career as a pilot for Southwest Airlines. He was deeply respected and his positive attitude, perseverance, kindness and sense of humor were pivotal in cementing the Southwest Airline culture.

In addition to his love for aviation, Ty was an avid outdoorsman. He served as Commodore of the local sailing club and was an active member for many years. In the summer, he took his passion for hiking, biking and golf to his beloved Colorado Mountains. Ty lived a rich life full of love and laughter he

was a fighter who will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Ty is survived by his beloved wife of 45 years, Gabriele D. (Naumann) Gregory; his loving children W. Thomas (Beth) Gregory of Portland, OR; Andrew L. (Melissa) Gregory of St. Petersburg, FL; and Anna G. (Tommy) Spann of Portland, OR; his brother William E. (Melody) Gregory of Lutz, FL and 5 beloved grandchildren, Abbey, Zach, Wil, Mila and Matilda.

A memorial service will be celebrated on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 11:00 A.M. at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 15600 Tamiami Trail N., Naples FL 34110. Burial with full military honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please consider making donations at Freedom Waters Foundation <https://www.freedomwatersfoundation.org/donate/> or Christus Victor Lutheran Church <http://www.christusvictorfl.org/give/>

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://arlingtoncemetery.mil>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christus Victor Lutheran Church
15600 N. Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34110

Tribute Wall



“ *Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory.*



November 12, 2017 at 02:37 AM

JC

“ *My Memory of Ty*
by Capt Jim Cook [SWA Ret. #5258]

There we were, Ty and myself, scooping Gumbo out of rain soaked channels by flashlights at 11:00 PM. The short version of how we arrived at this predicament? I was a brand new hire FO at SWA in the Spring of 1983 and immensely enjoying flying with my Capt, Ty Gregory. A major storm had washed all the new hydromulch out of our yard leaving raw Gumbo. Our builder said he would redo the hydromulch IF we had it done in the next three weeks or else no free redo. As I started the month with Ty I was desperately trying to find someone to put in a sprinkler system before the cut-off date, with no luck. When I mentioned my problem to Ty he said "I've done a few systems myself." "Give me a layout of your yard and I'll design a system for you and help you install it." And he did! And on the last day I had to finish the system before we would loose the redo, he even helped scoop Gumbo! I'm very lucky to have called him a friend.

Jim Cook - November 12, 2017 at 02:17 AM

PT

“ *Thinking of you all today as you celebrate the life of this incredible man ! I will treasure his friendship and beautiful spirit forever. In his presence I was always entertained, amused, happy and uplifted. His love of life & his his family and the "circus" stories are forever memorable. Ty Gregory lived such a giving & honest life; through his standards we all want to be better friends, family members & citizens of our communities. . . .*

Fly high, my dear friend; I know you are soaring the skies with Wayne & other SWA fly boys already there.

Pat Tschudy - November 11, 2017 at 10:26 AM

JZ

“ Ty was one of our favorite pilots at SWA. He was always upbeat and happy. He never had a bad word about anything or anyone. We will miss your engaging smile. Fly with the angels, Ty!!

Janet Zbojnowicz - November 09, 2017 at 10:47 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory.



November 09, 2017 at 08:02 PM

JB

“ Ty was always a pleasure to fly with - always smiling and upbeat. He was a true gentleman. LUV you!

Julie Bryant - November 09, 2017 at 07:35 PM

CR

“ RIP my friend ! Good memories from Ubon and the early70s in Europe! Fly high and save me a wing to join up on! A real Patriot and fighter pilot ! You will be missed!

Charles A 'Butch' Rose - November 09, 2017 at 06:15 PM

RL

“ Ty and I were both members of the 8th TFW in Thailand. We were both members of the Wolf Fast Facs (Forward Air Controler's). He checked me out in our area of responsibility). I considered him a good friend and a great pilot. I know as in the words of the poem "High Flight" he is now touching the face of God.
Ronald LeBlanc

Ronald LeBlanc - November 09, 2017 at 05:53 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory.



November 09, 2017 at 01:38 PM

BD

“ Ty you are the best pilot ever!!!! Great tailwinds our friend till we meet in Southwest Heaven.
Bob "Dumbo" Dombrowski
Southwest Airlines

Bob Dombrowski - November 09, 2017 at 10:38 AM

NR

“ Nicole Rasmusen lit a candle in memory of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory



Nicole Rasmusen - November 09, 2017 at 05:06 AM

NR

Liebe und herzliches Beileid von uns aus Starnberg! We will keep Ty in our best memories! LOVE Nicole, Niels & Viggo

Nicole Rasmusen - November 09, 2017 at 05:08 AM

SW

“ *I was a classmate of Ty and will remember him with great love. He always had a smile and a good word for me and he REALLY liked golf. As an Air Force Spouse My heart goes out to all of you! Sharyn Symes White (Grand Prairie, TX)*

Sharyn Whit - November 08, 2017 at 01:36 PM

LR

“ *With great sadness I learned of the passing of Ty. My thoughts and prayers are with you Gabi in this difficult time of great loss. Please accept my heartfelt condolences for you and your family. It was not long ago that you and Ty honored mi with your presence when I had to say good by to Dorly.
Leo Rebholz*

Leo Rebholz - November 08, 2017 at 11:47 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory.*



November 08, 2017 at 08:22 AM

BF

“ *It is with great sadness that we learned of Ty's passing. He was a true delight to be around and a wonderful example of how to live life to the fullest. He has showed how to confront and deal with all of his challenges in the strongest and most courageous way. His impact is and was immeasurable. May he rest in a peace he truly deserves.*

bob fiordella - November 07, 2017 at 10:15 PM

DT

“ *The epitome of a great Southwest Airlines Captain... You were a joy to be around or fly with... RIP my friend.*

Denny Thompson

Denny Thmpson - November 07, 2017 at 07:25 PM

TC

“ *I am so grateful to have known Ty as a dear friend and squadron mate. Our world was made so much better by his constant compassion for others, his great example as a pilot, his humor at the worst of times, and that infectious grin. He remains forever an important person in my life history, his spirit lives on through me and the thousands of other people he touched during his lifetime, and he will never be forgotten. Warmest thoughts to you Gabrielle and your family.*

*Very sadly,
Tom Clark*

Tom Clark - November 07, 2017 at 05:58 PM

PG

“ You picked a wonderful picture of just the way I will remember Ty, smiling and happy-go-lucky! I really enjoyed playing golf with him and talking to him at the Fitness Center- he always had that smile and a few kind words that made everyone feel they with a good friend. We will all miss him a lot.

Patrick Godici - November 07, 2017 at 05:06 PM

KH

To his wife and kids, he was the kindest man and Southwest Airlines! How wonderful that EVERYONE loved him! What a lucky family to have a husband and father who was a true legacy of love for a airline built on love!

kathleen hutchinson - November 07, 2017 at 09:46 PM

SP

My memories of Ty go back to Karat RTAFB. Always interested in the mission and what was going on. He was a factor that could always be counted on, whether on the wing or in the lead. The Wild Weasel program was in good hands with Ty. Know he is reliving some of the war stories from that era.

Sam Peacock - July 15, 2018 at 12:56 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory.



November 07, 2017 at 04:27 PM

JG

“ How proud I am to consider Ty a friend and compatriot. It began many years ago at Hahn AB, and picked up again at SWA. Our hearts are heavy at this really tough time, and as we prayed for you before we will not forget you in the future. Now we will prepare for a future rejoin.

God bless you and your family.

Jay and Ginny Gasper

jay gasper - November 07, 2017 at 04:27 PM

HJ

This sad news just got to me, a Flt attendant, at SW. TY was always a favorite pilot of mine to get to work with. I have missed him since he retired. Last time I saw him was years ago when he and his wife were trying to non rev somewhere from Orlando. I'd hoped to see him again. He was kind, fun and other pilots spoke highly of his flying experiences in the service, so I always felt safe with him. His love for SW was also apparent. He cared about people and SW. My sympathy to all the family and close friends on the loss of this great guy. I hate that he left this world too soon. RIP Ty.

Helen Johnson

Helen Johnson - November 07, 2017 at 06:56 PM

KH

“ As a long time Flight Attendant with SWA, I had the honor of flying with Ty many times during his SWA career! I can not think of one single time that Ty didn't greet you with a smile, a hug and the ability to make you feel better about everything! Captain Ty Gregory exemplified and embodied the true spirit of Southwest, our culture and how close of an airline family we were! I have been truly blessed to have known Ty! RIP Ty❤️✈️

kay hogan - November 07, 2017 at 04:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory.*



November 07, 2017 at 04:04 PM

 Lynda
Beal

“ *I've had the pleasure of flying with Ty so many times and you were so right when you mentioned in his tribute how SWEET, KIND and FUNNY he was, I have never met a sweeter fellow SWA employee who exemplified that SOUTHWEST SPIRIT more than TY did! I have tears in my eyes for this sweet soul who has left a forever imprint on my heart! My prayers and hugs go out to the family who was so BLESSED to have him as a brother, father, uncle or husband, for you I'm sure were forever changed knowing and having this sweet man in your life!!!*

Love,

Lynda Beal

Phoenix based Southwest Airlines flight attendant

Lynda Beal - November 07, 2017 at 03:36 PM

SM

“ Ty was such a wonderful man and pilot at SWA. I am a Flight Attendant here and had flown with Ty many times. He always had a big smile on his face and made you immediately feel like you were a member of his family! Ty had such a kind heart and positive outlook on life....he will be missed but what great memories to reflect on! Godspeed Ty



Sherry McConn - November 07, 2017 at 01:33 PM

TH

“ While I only knew Ty for the few years we were both instructors with the 563 TFS (Wild Weasel training squadron) at George AFB in the late 70's, there was no doubt about his quality. He had a sense of humor, quality of character, piloting skills, and love of life that were second to none. Ty never settled for less than 100% effort and quality in everything he did or touched. He was truly one of the best....GBU, Ty and your wonderful family. Tom Hanton.

Tom Hanton - November 07, 2017 at 01:10 PM

WT

“ Praying that you will find comfort during this difficult time. Andrew please do not hesitate to call if you want to chat. God Bless. The Thornal Family, Ocala



Wes Thornal - November 07, 2017 at 12:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory.*



November 07, 2017 at 11:53 AM



“ *Flying with Ty was the best! It was always a team not just “His plane”. He is missed terribly.*
Lynda Prejna

Lynda Prejna - November 07, 2017 at 09:21 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Leo Tyrus (Ty) Gregory.*



November 07, 2017 at 09:13 AM



“ *Our heartfelt sympathies to you all...what a wonderful family and what a sad loss. Ty will always be remember as a 'really nice guy' and a lot of fun to be with. We send hugs and strength...his memory will never, ever be less than perfect. Bless you all. Much love, Janie and Jim Batts*

james and jane batts - November 07, 2017 at 09:02 AM

JS

“ *A remarkable life and truly remarkable gentleman. I always enjoyed seeing his ever present smile and his positive spirit whether in the airport or every time I popped that A/C door (back in my ops days). Truly sorry for your loss. You're all in our thoughts and prayers.*

Jon Stanley - November 07, 2017 at 08:58 AM

AP

“ *A truly remarkable man, he never met anyone who wasn't instantly his friend. A true hero in so many ways. God bless him and Gabrielle and his entire family. He will be greatly missed.*

Alex and Diane Ponzio - November 06, 2017 at 11:11 PM

SM

Ty was a kind and inspirational man. I am so fortunate to have flown with him when I was a new First Officer at Southwest Airlines. Not only did he teach me a lot about flying but he taught me a lot about being a kind and good person. Everywhere he went people smiled and were happy to see him. His was surely a life well lived. Blessings to his family.

Sherri Maple - November 07, 2017 at 08:34 AM

PB

Ty was one of the first copilots with whom I flew at SWA. He immediately impressed me both as a pilot and as a person. His genuineness, friendliness, dedication to the welfare of his fellow pilots, and excellence as an airman will be remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing him. In my world he was truly a giant among men. God bless and be near to you, his beloved family. Paul Buhler, ret. 2002

Paul Buhler - November 07, 2017 at 11:52 AM

MK

This is hard. I flew with Ty in the 81st TFS Wild weasels at Hahn, Zweibrucken and Spangdahlem air bases in Germany in the mid 70s. Ty was, without a doubt, one the very best, as a pilot, professional and friend. There was never a moment when he would not do anything you asked without hesitation. We had many moments together on alert, TDY, or at the squadron, always cheerful, capable and, friendly. He was the best of us all and the world is poorer for his absence. my condolences to Gabrielle and his family, and his many, many friends.

Mike Keefe - November 07, 2017 at 03:54 PM

TL

Ty, we will miss your bright warm smile, happy spirit, and funny Ty isms. Rest In Peace and know your family is well loved and looked after.

Ted & Jean Lawson - November 07, 2017 at 05:23 PM

JM

As a knew employee I would try to absorb the best from those I worked with. 99% of the way I wanted and tried to conduct myself was received from Ty. Not only company procedures but life procedures. I saw how he was with every person from every department and every customer he came in contact with. His actions always put a smile on your face. If I saw Ty on an open time trip, I would bid it and hope to get it just to work with him. In union meetings when things got hot, Ty always kept his cool and would calm the meeting down. Now JESUS CHRIST has more work for him to do. I salute you Col. Ty and thank you for what you've taught us all.

Murf

Jerry Murphy - November 08, 2017 at 11:57 AM

BW

What great memories I have of Ty from our fighter pilot days at Ubon RTAB in Thailand and several AF bases in Germany, Spain and Italy. To have known Ty and to have flown with him was one of the great privileges of my life. I was his No. 2 when he tested the Martin-Baker ejection seat and his parachute. I claim to be the one who helped put Ty together with his incredible wife, Gabriele, while we were in Germany. Ty was my closest friend in the Air Force and, needless to say, we will all miss him tremendously now that he has flown west into the sunset.

Bill Wall - November 08, 2017 at 02:42 PM

BK

I, too, first met Ty and Gabriele in Germany. We then rejoined at George AFB where my new bride Sharon and Gabriele became the closest of friends. Ty truly was one of the best, a fighter pilot's fighter pilot and an incredible Air Force officer and leader. He was the only one who tried talking me into staying in the AF and then ended up separating just 15 days after me. First and foremost, he was a friend. We will miss you Ty Gregory. Until we meet again, our thoughts and prayers are with Gabriele, Anna and your sons.

Bruce Kreidler - November 08, 2017 at 04:20 PM

LK

I had the privilege of working with Ty on both air safety and accident investigation for the pilots' association in the early 1980s. Ty was a tireless advocate on behalf of the pilots with boundless energy, while maintaining a respect from the company. He helped establish a safety culture that succeeds him today. Ty embodied what a true professional aviator should be. Godspeed, Ty...thank you for your guidance and friendship.

larry kline - November 08, 2017 at 06:40 PM