



Don "Nic" Nichols

July 2, 1940 - March 13, 2017

Donald Eugene "Nic" Nichols, Jr. passed away peacefully in Deland, Florida, on March 13, 2017, after a brave and lengthy battle with cancer. Nic was born in Helena, AR to Don and Lois Nichols on July 2, 1940. He spent his childhood in Valdosta, GA, growing up with his five brothers, Jim, Lyle, Gary, John, and Greg. An avowed intellectual, he was a member of Mensa, and was eventually known to his friends as "Doctor Nic".

Nic graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Business Administration, which led to a successful career as a Mortgage Broker. More recently, as managing partner of San Marcos Valley, LLC, Nic has orchestrated the total conversions of older existing properties into quality and affordable housing for the elderly.

His quest for adventure never waned; he traveled the world extensively, managed a ski lodge in Aspen Highlands, ran a veneer mill in Bonifay, FL, and in his spare time built a harpsichord, a sailboat, and anything else he chose. Loving good music from an early age, Nic could play anything with strings, and enjoyed tutoring his younger brothers as soon as they were old enough to pick up a guitar.

In 1963, Nic became fascinated with the then-new sport of Skydiving, and it soon became the passion of his life. He was a pioneering member of the United States Parachute Association. with membership number 261. He would eventually complete more than 4,800 jumps, "from a perfectly-good airplane." He pioneered canopy stacking of parachutes and was a founding

member of "Them Toadsuckers," well known in the sport.

The overriding love in Nic's life was for his children, and for all children. He had a knack for finding the interest or curiosity a child might have, and encouraging it, be it a kite or a dirt-bike. This notable trait dove-tailed perfectly with his innate ability to tell a really good story... or several, if you had the time. Most of them were true.

Nic is survived by his children: Laurel, Natalie, Daniel, Bret, and Alison Nichols, and Wendi Ledford, as well as four grandchildren, Cruz Nichols, Lendi and Savannah Dickson, and Oliver Ledford; 2 great-grandchildren, Valentina Nichols and James Stapp; and his fiancée Mara Silies. He was predeceased by his son, Donald E. Nichols III.

Wherever Nic is now, we are certain there is a bottle of fine wine and a ready parachute, both within reach; and he is smiling.

To celebrate the memory of the eventful life of Nic Nichols, there will be a gathering for his "Ash Dive", at Skydive Deland, 1600 Flightline Blvd., in Deland FL, on April 1, 2017. Times: Ash Dive, 3pm. Celebration ceremony, at 5pm. Bring your "Nic stories", fond remembrances, and your smiles.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to www.HelpMeSee.org in Nic's memory.

Tribute Wall

OM

“ Nic was a dear friend, always sweet & fun to be around. I was unaware of his passing and am sad now to read this. He was always a true joy to me!!! Rest in peace, my sweet longtime friend!!
🙏

Ollie Mcleod - September 05, 2024 at 05:47 PM



“ Don "Nic" Nichols

January 30, 2023 at 03:36 AM

CT

“ So many memories flood my mind of the one and only Dr. Nic. Our friendship has been savored for over 40 years by us both, as well as our families. The skydiving community was blessed for many years by the presence of this dynamic and superlative human. My friend, my mentor, my airbrother forever. No words can describe how he will be missed by so many. Godspeed Nic Nichols. Your love is captured in our hearts forever.
Digger Trox - D7789

Cary Troxel - March 14, 2017 at 01:44 PM

HP

*My sentiments exactly Digger ! What a great guy. Blue Skys Dr. Nic !
How Bout Them ToadSuckers !*

Howard Posner - March 14, 2017 at 05:14 PM