



Mr. Paul James Poppenhager

June 23, 1934 - May 5, 2020

PAUL JAMES (POP) POPPENHAGER (85), made his final ascent into beautiful blue skies on May 5, 2020. Paul, an only child, was born in Miami, Florida, and spent his formative years in attendance at the Florida Military Academy. He seized every opportunity afforded him to spend time in the Florida Everglades with his father and uncles who were pioneers in Glade transportation and conservation. His nurtured love of nature and the outdoors further developed his yearning for adventure and an unbridled drive which worked well with his intellect. His service in the US Army, 82nd Airborne Division and employment with the U.S Air Force as a parachute rigger inspired his lifelong passion for flying and sport parachuting. He maintained a well-respected reputation within the parachuting community due to his prestigious proficiencies as a pilot, mechanic, sport parachuting pioneer and innovator, and often frank verbal contributions. Due to his exceptional contributions within sport parachuting he was awarded induction into the International Skydiving Hall of Fame in 2015. First and foremost, a family man who supported his wife and six children while doing what he loved. He often said he could not have had the success in business he did without the love and support of his family.

He was preceded in death by his mother Carol Irene (Bartholomew) McAlesher,
his father Paul Hugh Poppenhager, and former wife Carol Francis Brown (the

love
of his life).

He is survived by his children Suzanne (Chip) Esposito, Lori Poppenhager-Minor,
Paul Hugh (Paula) Poppenhager, Peggy (Ricky) Sheltra, Patty (Mitchell) Pitts,
and
Julie (Robert) Mason; 13 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren.

For additional Memorial details please contact the Poppenhager family at
popD47@hotmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Paul James Poppenhager*

January 30, 2023 at 03:36 AM



“ *We all loved you Pop. Godspeed.
Kris Ferrell (Stark), Amy Ferrell Messina, Red of the Sky, & the late
Frank Stark*

Kris Ferrell - April 26, 2022 at 11:52 PM

CT

“ Suzanne, Laurie, Paul, Patty, Peggy and Julie

I was saddened at the news of Pop's decline and condition and was somewhat relieved at his passing. He's at peace I kept saying. No more stuff breaking down. I was relieved to learn he was somewhat happy still towards the end in spite of the awful memory loss.

The best 10 years of my life was spent enjoying the skies, the jumpers, the great times we all had at SFPI. I even met my wife there.

All the great memories have flooded my mind over the past weeks and I even dug out some old photos from the 80s to remember more. I will share what I can with you when I find more. The sound of Carol's laugh echoes in my mind. Pop's "Clear the prop" order and hundreds of memories from All around the Chickee and the campfire.

I miss so much about the time, the place, and ALL of you Kiddenhagers.

Much Love and comfort

Digger

(meant to post this weeks ago : - ()

Cary Troxel - August 20, 2020 at 06:33 PM

LC

“ *A great memory for me was when Pop was flying and as I left the step he dropped the wing and rolled me off the end!*

He is greatly missed.

Uncle Leo

Leo Cobb - May 31, 2020 at 01:19 PM