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Augsburger, William E. (1929 - 2018)



William E Augsburger, June 12, 1929 - September 16th, 2018.

Lt. Col. (Retired) William Augsburger of Nampa flew into the arms of Jesus on September 16th, 2018 at his home with family by his side.

Bill was born on June 12th 1929 in Cleveland Ohio, to Hiram and Elnore Augsburger. As WW2 was dawning, Bill's family bought a farm near Lafayette Ohio. Bill's dad was a mail clerk on a train and was gone for days at a time, leaving the family to learn how to care for the farm. Bill became a trumpet player in the school band and joined FFA showing prize sheep at the fair. Bill's, dad, not wanting any idle time for his family planted a one half acre strawberry patch and a large garden as well. Bill soon found out that cream he had milked from his cows, mixed with strawberries was his favorite breakfast. Bill accepted Jesus as

his Savior while attending Vacation Bible School as a boy.

The family moved to Fort Wayne Indiana in 1945. Bill was active in school sports, band and the church youth group. Bill graduated from high school in 1947. Bill went to a small liberal arts college in Manchester Indiana. After two years, he convinced his mother to allow him to sign up for the new Air Force aviation cadet program. He attended basic flight instruction in San Angelo, Texas and advanced pilot training at Williams Field, Arizona. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the USAF in 1951. He had further training as a fighter pilot learning gunnery and air to air combat at Nellis Air Force base in Nevada. He was assigned to the 36th Tactical Fighter Squadron (Thirsty Sixth) in Korea where he flew combat tours in the F-80. He returned to the US in December 1951.

At the prompting of both mothers, he was convinced to go on a blind date with Phyllis Romey. Falling madly in love, they were married three weeks later. They travelled to many duty stations in the coming years which included Pakistan, Norway and over 25 different air bases in the US. Bill was sent to Florida State University for an undergraduate degree in meteorology. He was then sent to the University of Arizona for a post graduate degree in astrophysics. Desiring to get back to his love of combat aviation, Bill volunteered for fighter combat in the F-105. Bill flew combat missions in

Vietnam. He earned many medals, among them are the Silver Star awarded personally by President Johnson, six distinguished flying crosses and fourteen other air combat medals.

In the fall of 1970, after twenty years of Air Force service, Bill retired and moved his family to Nampa Idaho. Bill then worked for the State of Idaho in the Department of Employment, Department of Revenue and the Department of Water Resources. Bill dreamed of building his own home with his own hands and he then undertook a 5 year project to build a new family home, doing literally most of the work himself, learning as he went.

When Bill and Phyllis retired, they travelled the world together and saw places such as Hawaii, Fiji, Australia, Iceland, Canada, the Bahamas, Singapore, Hong Kong. They routinely went on road trips to all lower 48 states, many an adventure were had. Bill and Phyllis attended the Championship Air Races in Reno Nevada each year for 30 years. Bill volunteered for over 30 years with the Tax Aide program helping mostly elderly folks prepare tax returns and he made many friends working with them.

Bill lost Phyllis, the love of his life, to Leukemia in September of 2008. Bill devoted every Friday to visiting his love at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery for hours at a time.

Bill battled health issues the summer of 2018, fighting the good fight but weakening, he passed away at his home with family by his side. His greatest desire, he said, was that everyone that reads this will trust and love Jesus as he did.

Bill is survived by brother Ed and Sister Jayne, daughters Pamela and Karla and son Bill, many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bill's life will be celebrated at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery on October 5th 2018 at 1:00PM.