



## Gordon John Doody

March 3, 1948 - March 1, 2017

Gordon John Doody 68, of Saline, Michigan passed away peacefully on March 1, 2017 with his family by his side. Gordon was born in St. Catharines Ontario on March 3, 1948. On June 26, 1998 he married Cynthia Koch Doody, both resided in Saline Michigan. Gordon is survived by his wife Cynthia and his children, Courtney Zamudio and Andrew (Jessica) Doody; two grandchildren, Adyson and Declan Zamudio. He is also survived by siblings Pat (Diane) Doody, John (Vickie) Doody, Mary Beth Doody, Cindy (Herbie) Kraft, Jim (Peggy) Doody. Preceded in death by parents Gordon Isaac Johnston, Catharine Doody and his adoptive father Jay Doody. Gordon was a Navy pilot, Top Gun of his squadron on the Oriskany Carrier Ship from 1970 - 1977. "Howdy" (old Navy call sign) Doody, as he was known at the airlines, had a long and distinguished 35 year career as an airline pilot. Howdy was hired in 1977 with Southern Airways and through mergers flew with Republic Airlines, Northwest Airlines and retired in 2013 as an Airbus Captain for Delta Air Lines. A Memorial Mass will take place on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 910 Austin Dr. Saline, MI 48176, at 11:00 AM with a visitation with the family starting at 10:00 AM and a coffee to follow. Fr. Francis Mossholder as celebrant. Military honors will be held under the auspices of the Washtenaw County Veterans Honor Guard. Memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society. Envelopes will be available at the church. To sign Gordon's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information or directions please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

MAR **18**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Drive  
Saline, MI 48176  
<https://standrewsaline.org/>

## Memorial Mass of Christian Burial

MAR **18**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Drive  
Saline, MI 48176  
<https://standrewsaline.org/>

# Tribute Wall

HG

“ Rest in peace, Howdy! We were squadron mates and young warriors together once, but always friends.

Hey, save me a seat on the van...

Howard Gault

USMC

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Howard Gault - March 29, 2017 at 12:52 AM

ML

“ Gordon/ Howdy, and I flew many San Juan turns together . I was sorry to see him medically retire. When he returned after a long illness to fly the A330 it was nothing short of a miracle. He was back, and I enjoyed once again spending time with him in Amsterdam on the overnights. He made us all laugh and I will always remember his smile. That smile and his spirit touched many people. He will be missed.

Mike Lazarowicz

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Mike Lazarowicz - March 18, 2017 at 12:02 PM

LP

“ Sincere sympathy to Cynthia and family. Gordon was great guy and enjoyable to be around. Him a Navy guy and me a Marine the teasing was always fun.

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Larry Pabin - March 17, 2017 at 03:00 PM

SW

“ There was not a finer guy to work with than Howdy Doody. What a great guy. Always smiling, always out going, always friendly. The only reason I didn't fly more with him was he was so popular to fly with so the senior F/O's got his trips. Much too soon. I am very sorry for your loss.

Scott Wexler

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Scott Wexler - March 17, 2017 at 08:53 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gordon John Doody.



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March 16, 2017 at 08:57 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gordon John Doody.



March 16, 2017 at 05:27 PM

MP

“ Cynthia and Family,  
Angi and I want to extend our heartfelt sympathies to you. Gordon was one of a kind and such a well loved member of the Saline and Travis Pointe communities. He will be sorely missed and wonderfully remembered. I saw him last in October holding court and laughing up a storm at Salt Springs with a bunch of friends. That was Gordon. He was a legend at Detroit Metro and there was not a more popular Pilot. Sadly, Captain Doody has "...slipped the surly bonds of Earth..."  
Rest in Peace Brother.  
Mike Petraszko

Michael Petraszko - March 16, 2017 at 10:08 AM

BR

“ Dear Cynthia, we are so sorry to hear about Gordon. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God wrap his arms around you during this time. Blessings, Becky Rogers, Debra Smith and families.

Becky Rogers - March 16, 2017 at 07:56 AM

FM

“ From Dave and Edie McGuirk purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gordon John Doody.



From Dave and Edie McGuirk - March 15, 2017 at 05:49 PM

DM

“ Gordon and I share a history of airline mergers that led us from Georgia to Michigan. He had a joyful spirit and his sense of humor was infectious. We are so very sorry for your loss and we hope that your memories of Gordon will provide you with comfort and give you strength.

Dave and Edie McGuirk

David and Edie McGuirk - March 15, 2017 at 05:43 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gordon John Doody.*



March 15, 2017 at 02:16 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Gordon John Doody.*



March 15, 2017 at 07:38 AM

JO

“ *Cynthia.  
Sarah and I send our sincerest condolences to you and your family in this time of sorrow. You lost a great soldier to this terrible foe. May his spirit be with you and guide you forever.  
With much sadness,  
Jim Otto*



**Jim Otto** - March 13, 2017 at 02:48 PM

DC

“ *I am so glad that I had the opportunity to have Gordon help me with my investments. He took such a personal interest in helping me with my finances besides being a genuine person with such integrity. He will be missed.*

*Deb Chapel*

**Deborah Chapel** - March 13, 2017 at 07:27 AM

MB

“ *Gordon was always a delight be it at work or at play. What a wonderful man. The world lost a gem.*

**Marge and John Biancke** - March 12, 2017 at 11:18 AM

GV

“ The first time I met Gordo, we were flying a San Juan turn. During his break, he intently studied the Wall Street Journal page that had all of the stock info numbers . This naturally started a conversation the eventually led to me signing on with his investment company. I asked him if he encouraged pilots to invest all of their money until it was gone. He assured me that probably was not the case.

Anyway, over the years, we became very good friends. My wife, Nancy and I enjoyed he and his lovely wife, Cynthia's company. We golfed, he cooked, we drank fine wines that he recommended. He never disappointed.

I feel honored to have known, and been good friends with a one-of-a-kind guy.

Gordon, you will be missed.

Gary and Nancy Vessell

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Gary Vessell - March 11, 2017 at 06:09 PM

“ Captain Gordon Doody, (Howdy, The GREAT Gordo)

*Gordon was more like a brother to me than a friend. I met him in 1987 while playing golf with the neighborhood at Travis Pointe and we immediately became life long buddies. Gordon and I took many vacations with our wives and played lots of golf together. On one of many vacations to the Grand Cayman Islands, Gordon decided we needed to get our scuba certification. SO, there we sat on the beach with our Red Stripe beers studying our dive manuals. By the way, he decided we needed to do this all to save \$50 on the resort dive we had been doing for years. Why not???*

*Gordon had the ability to make every one laugh and have a good time. He however carried this personality over to his career as a Captain for Delta and Northwest (NWA). In January of 1999 Detroit Airport experienced one of the worst snow storms ever and Captain Doody had the dubious distinction of being stranded on the taxiway for 8 plus hours. You can only imagine the situation that this crew and 148 passengers endured while parked 1 mile away from the Detroit Terminal. One might expect several letters of complaint to be written about this situation, yet Captain Doody instead had 50 or so letters complementing him on how he handled this ugly situation and made the best of the situation. This was the GREAT GORDO!!!!!!*

*Howdy was also very handy in the kitchen. He would surprise Cynthia on a regular basis with meals he had read about or viewed on some TV show. I can honestly say the best meal I ever had Gordon personally cooked at Travis Pointe with the assistance of the Chef.*

*My heart is breaking that my friend is gone and the thought I will never be able to see him again on this earth. However, I do realize that he is no longer in pain, FREE of all that cancer and young again, and hopefully I will see him again in another life.*

*There are few friends that one makes in his life time that make a difference. Gordon was one of those friends.*

*RIP Buddy. Love ya*





“ Dear Cynthia and family, I was so sorry to hear of Gordon's passing. I remember him from when he attended First Presbyterian in Saline. Such a nice guy. Also Cyndy you were my daughters first dance teacher (Brandi and Valerie Clark). You are in my thoughts and prayers. Terrie Uphaus Eroh

Terrie Eroh - March 09, 2017 at 07:10 AM

DS

“ My neighbor, my best buddy, my golf partner, my pilot (introduced me to the entire A320 on a flight and made me stand up front and shake hands with the passengers de-planing), nick named me 'Bob', on occasion, my drinking partner, second Dad to my young kids, ring leader, comedian (slightly blue), life of the party, inspiring, magnetic, and more.  
No one will miss him more than me, but, I can only imagine that there are 1,000 right there with me---already miss you, Doods! One of a kind! God Bless!

Dave "Bob" Skala - March 09, 2017 at 06:50 AM

TC

“ When my family moved to the Lewiston area in 1960 Gord was one of the first people I met at St. Peter's School. From that point on knowing Gord and hanging with him was an adventure! After JV football at Duffy, Gord left for Lew-Port, but we still had many friends in common and continued to have great times, often on the Lower Niagara in boats of various descriptions and reliability. His spirit and smile will be missed, but the memories remain. It was wonderful to meet Gord's wife, Cynthia, at the Lew-Port reunion last summer and our thoughts and prayers are with you. Terry & Betty Cummings

Terry Cummings - March 07, 2017 at 08:48 PM

CD

“ IMPOSSIBLE TO NOT LIKE HOWDY DOODY...ALWAYS THE ONE TO SMILE AND KID AROUND. HIS BURSTING OUT LAUGH JUST CAPTURED YOUR FUNNY BONE.....A SUPER DUDE I HAVE TO SAY AND THIS LIFE WAS MADE A LITTLE MORE HAPPY, AND EXCITING BECAUSE OF HOWDY AND WHAT HE ADDED TO IT.  
I AM THANKFUL THAT FOR A TIME IN LEMOORE WE SHARED STORIES AND FUN TMES TOGETHER.  
FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEA SHIPMATE, MAY WE MEET AGAIN IN THE CLOUDS.  
"TUNA"

CHARLIE DEREGO  
VA-153

CHARLIE DEREGO - March 07, 2017 at 07:17 PM

GN

“ Cynthia, and all of the Doody family:  
*I knew Gordon in the Navy A7 Community in Lemoore, CA.  
Great guy, great sense of humor and great stick.  
Ran into him in Charleston WV while on a Delta layover; he had not changed still  
a great guy. We recalled some fun and fond memories.  
My deepest condolences and prayers for peace and comfort.  
Greg Nichols  
"Bucwheat"*

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**Greg Nichols** - March 07, 2017 at 12:46 PM

DW

“ Gordon:  
  
*You probably don't remember me, but I remember you and your big grin walking  
down the hallways of Lew-Port. From the picture here, I can see you kept that  
grin, and I'm betting you're grinning now. May the Lord comfort your family.*  
  
*Don Wesel, '66er*

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**Don Wesel** - March 06, 2017 at 10:04 PM

JD

“ Cynthia, and all of the Doody family. ...Ted (Dash) and I send our deepest  
condolences to hear of Gordon's passing. Such an amazing battle he waged  
against such an epic foe... ALWAYS with such spirit and heroic Humor! Much as  
he'd lived his life, no doubt! The love he earned from so many was a reflection of  
his generous heart and amazing zest for life. I know Howdy took my hubby under  
his wing at Pensacola while in flight school, and added the "touch of Lewiston " to  
this homesick young lady in my early years as a Marine wife.  
*An Amazing American, husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, nephew, dear  
friend, pilot, advisor and one who lived it to the fullest, bringing so many others  
under his wing to do the same. Rest In Peace, dearest Gordon.... Prayers  
continue for all of the family...  
Ted (Dash) and Joannie Gidlow Dailey*

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**Joan G Dailey** - March 06, 2017 at 03:52 PM

PK

“ Penny Kark lit a candle in memory of Gordon John Doody



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penny kark - March 05, 2017 at 01:39 PM

“ Dear Cynthia,

*I was so very sorry to learn of Gordon's death, just two days before his birthday, too. It is difficult to know what to say because, even though we all experience loss it is different for each of us. I just want you to know that I'm sure all our hearts go out to you.*

*At our Lew-Port reunion he looked so happy with you by his side and I didn't know he had cancer. I really admire both of you for making the effort to come participate and I am so thankful to have had a chance to see meet you, at least briefly (you were a very busy photographer!) and to see Gordon.*

*Although your husband and I were classmates at Lew-Port, I never knew him well because we were in different "circles". What I do remember, however, is that Gordon always seemed so good-natured and fun-loving, with a smile on his face. I saw that same side of him at the reunion and I think it was due to being there with you as well as seeing his old classmates.*

*Cynthia, Gordon was blessed to have such a caring, vivacious, devoted wife. I could see that you two were a deeply loving couple who really enjoyed each other. I know you will miss him but hope you have many good memories of him. Although he is gone physically, you will always keep him in your heart and memory.*

*I'm too far away to join you for the memorial mass celebrating Gordon's life and to give you a healing hug but I send my love and prayers and a hug to you long distance. In a message I sent Suzanne, who told us about Gordon, I paraphrased a verse from the Bible that helped me when my brother died: "He has run the good race. He has fought the good fight" In looking at the photos Suzanne shared with us (which I think she must have gotten from you) I could see that Gordon was a man of many accomplishments who made meaningful contributions to our country, serving as a military aviator. I found those photos very impressive and moving.*

*Another verse from the Bible which has comforted me in the loss of loved ones is "The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms." We are all, always, enveloped in his loving embrace.*

*I think of the dates when my brother, parents and other loved ones died as their new "birthdays". In a sense, March 1st is Gordon's new birthday to his life, resting in the peace and love of our Lord.*

*Cynthia, I'm thinking of you and your family and all the Doody family. God bless you and give you all peace and healing. Keep happy memories of Gordon.*

*I send you love and hugs,*

*Caroline (C.C. Latham)*

*P.S. I didn't know you lived in Michigan. I was a professor at Michigan State University before being invited overseas to teach in several countries in Asia and I still think of Michigan as my second home. For nearly 20 years I brought groups of my students back to Michigan and MSU to meet and experience the good people who live in Michigan-the heartland of America. You are in a place where I know you will have good support from family and friends.*

AM

“ Just too many to mention, great guy, great friend, just lucky that he thought that much of me to call me a friend . you'll be missed!.al matson

Allan matson - March 04, 2017 at 01:20 PM

TT

“ O Captain! My Captain! Howdy (Gordon) Doody was the best airline captain to ever walk the face of the earth! He has been revered and respected by more pilots, both airline and military, than possibly anyone who ever existed. His professionalism and extremely keen sense of humor made him one of the most liked and respected people on earth! Howdy was always a joy to be around both in and out of the cockpit. He will be sorrowfully missed. Everyday with Howdy Doody was a great day! What a great guy! What a fantastic human being! Howdy has departed us too soon! Rest in peace my beloved friend, pal and Captain!

*your friend and eternal copilot, toby g. theodore*

toby theodore - March 04, 2017 at 11:03 AM

JF

“ I had the fortunate opportunity to fly with Gordon on many occasions. Always a smile on his face and a kind words for everyone he came in contact with.

Jerry Fielding - March 04, 2017 at 10:47 AM

AL

“ We are so blessed to have known Gordon and to see him at the High School reunion. May he be at peace. He will be missed. Thank you Cynthia for being at the reunion and sharing him with us one last time.



Anita Lymburner - March 04, 2017 at 09:56 AM

LC

“ Gordie had so much strength and was such an inspiration to many. He and his wife Cynthia sat with us at YYC for our 50th class reunion in September. Shared many stories and laughs. Soar with the eagles. RIP



Linda (Follum) Carlson - March 04, 2017 at 09:29 AM