

Thomas “Tom” Earl Rippee



October 31, 1941 - November 14, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Thomas Earl Rippee, a loyal father, brother, and friend, who left us on November 14, 2025, at the age of 84. Born on Halloween in 1941 in Springfield, Missouri, Tom lived a life filled with passion, service, and commitment.

Tom was saved at a young age on September 16, 1951, at High Street Baptist Church, where his grandmother, a founding member, proudly witnessed his baptism.

Tom proudly served his country as an aircraft mechanic in the United States Air Force. His time in the Air Force laid the foundation for a life marked by commitment and duty, qualities he carried into his civilian life.

After his service, Tom found his calling in the oil industry, lending his expertise as a supervisor in pipeline maintenance at Shell Oil Company. His work in this field not only showcased his skill but also his unwavering dedication to his craft and his colleagues. He loved his job and retired in 1995.

Tom became a pilot around 1975 when he found a couple of used planes and repaired them to fly. He loved flying airplanes while also maintaining them. Above all Tom loved his children Mike and Terri, and he was incredibly proud of them both.

He was preceded in death by his parents Jesse Lloyd and Annie Elizabeth (Bell) Rippee.

Tom is survived by his son, Mike Rippee and partner Missy; his daughter, Terri Rippee; and his sister, Carolyn Rippee-Rhea. They will carry his memory in their hearts.

Rest in peace, Tom. You will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.