



Forrest O. Hutchins

May 17, 1923 - October 2, 2006

Forrest O. Hutchins, age 83, of Gobles, passed away Monday, Oct. 2, 2006 at home. Mr. Hutchins was born to a farming family in Waukegan, IL May 17, 1923. He developed a passion for airplanes at an early age and worked at an airport in exchange for flight lessons. He earned his pilot's license at age 16. After graduating from high school he joined the Army Air Force in 1944 and was accepted into the Fighter Pilot Program completing the P51 Mustang Program in 1945. Mr. Hutchins was a charter pilot and an agricultural pilot. He earned a Master's Degree from WMU. in Engineering Technology, joining the WMU Faculty in 1966 as an Associate Professor in the Aviation Technology School, retiring in 1984. He was an FAA Flight Safety Instructor and a Pilot Examiner for six years. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying the winter sports, hunting, fishing and kayaking. He was active in 4-H in the Equestrian and Gun Safety Programs. Surviving are his wife, Jane, whom he met while stationed in Louisiana and married in 1947; one son Jerry (Susan Brady) Hutchins of Kalamazoo; a granddaughter, Tara; a brother, Howard (Barbara) Hutchins of Dowagiac; a brother and sister-in-law, Gen. Alton (Jean) Slay of Warrenton, VA. The family will meet friends Sunday 2-6 PM at the GOBLES CHAPEL, D. L. Miller Funeral Home www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com Committal of Cremains will be Tuesday 11 AM at Fort Custer National Cemetery. The family suggests memorials to the Wings of Hope Hospice

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **8.** 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Gobles Chapel
208 West Main Street
Gobles, MI

Service

OCT **10.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Fort Custer National Cemetery
15501 Dickman Road
Augusta, Mi

Tribute Wall

BG

“ I met Forrest at a family reunion in the late 1980s. He is my mom's cousin and a man of many talents. He was a solid flatpicker on guitar and a pilot for many years. When asked which was the best plane he had ever flown, P-51 Mustang was his answer without hesitation.

He had an incredible and long life and was an inspiration to anyone who met him.

Brett Gasper - January 24, 2024 at 09:39 PM