



## Marvin E. Easter

September 15, 1923 - February 13, 2019

Marvin E. Easter passed away peacefully on February 13. He will be missed by all who knew him for his great sense of humor and his passion for flying. He was born September 15, 1923 on a farm in Cedar Falls, Iowa to Ersie and Leda Easter, who predeceased him. Marv enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served until 1946. He graduated with a degree in music education from Iowa State Teachers College (now the University of Northern Iowa) in Cedar Falls. It was there he met his future bride, Barbara, in a music practice room, and they were married on August 15, 1948 and enjoyed 65 years together. Marv taught junior high and high school vocal music for 9 years in Waterloo. Despite his music background and career, Marv had grown up completely fascinated with aviation. He learned to fly while he was a teacher, earning his Private and Commercial pilot licenses in a Luscombe 8A. He became a certified flight instructor and taught flying at the Waterloo Flying Service. Marv joined Department of Aviation at The Ohio State University's College of Engineering in 1958 and spent the next 40+ years teaching ground and flight courses, as the university's Chief Flight Instructor. He taught hundreds of students, and all would recall his scathing humor and practical approach to flying, not to mention their learning from his decades of experience. Marv said he was "the only music major teaching in the College of Engineering. A piano player was much easier to teach than an engineer. Musicians think ahead. Engineers sit and analyze everything." During that time, Marv took part in many research studies that have been

important to the growth of aviation. He also traveled the country for Traveling Aviation Seminars, teaching 28 hours in three days, hitting 47 states.

Marv rebuilt such aircraft as a Cessna 140 and Piper PA-11, built a Starduster Too (mostly in his basement), and he restored a prize-winning Waco 10 he owned in partnership with several friends. He was inducted into the National Association of Flight Instructors Hall of Fame in 1998.

Marv is predeceased by his parents, Ersie and Leda Easter, his older brother Howard, and by his wife, Barbara, who passed away in 2015. Marv is survived by his daughter Susan Cochran (Bob) of Columbus, son Mark of Columbus, and son Steven (Kathy) of Heath; granddaughters Jennifer Johnson of Newark, Denise Rutter (Brett) of Minot, North Dakota, and great-grandchildren Mason, Liam, Claire, and Erin. Also niece Linda Watts (Pete) of Dublin, and great-nieces Megan Watts of Houston and Kate Watts of Dublin.

A celebration of Marv's life will be held at a later date, with an announcement prior to the date.

To honor Marv, please consider a donation to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, 55 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215; or the Austin E. Knowlton Ohio State Airport Enhancement Fund (#315216), 3042 Smith Lab, 174 W. 18th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210; or the Wesley Glen Charitable Care Fund, 5155 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43214.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Marvin E. Easter*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Having an OSU business degree with a double major in marketing & finance, and a "minor" in aviation (private, commercial, instrument, CFI) categorically by far Mr. Easter was the best professor, educator, and mentor during my tenure as an OSU undergraduate. His wisdom, anecdotal stories, and humor is a treasure for all of us fortunate to be one of his student pilots!*



**Andrew Show** - May 24, 2019 at 10:57 AM



“ *The staff at Wesley Glen Retirement Community sends our deepest condolences and prayers for the family. It was an honor to know Mr. Easter. We will miss him.*

**Mary LeMaster** - May 08, 2019 at 12:08 PM

DF

“ Don & Lorna Frank recall their times of joy and laughter with Marv as fellow members of the North Broadway Church adult choir. Don sat right next to Marv and the ready quips from him had us literally in tears with ab workouts that proved to support what singing we managed to accomplish during rehearsals. What fun he generated among all. Best regards to the entire family, note-ably our other music colleagues, Sue and Bob.

---

**Donald Graham Frank** - March 04, 2019 at 04:05 PM

JP

“ Gone West! Musician, Motorcyclist, Sportsman, Auto enthusiast, Aircraft Builder, Educator, loving Husband, father and friend to many. And yes, " The best damn pilot, flight instructor I know". A little part of Marv will fly with me until I can fly no more.

---

**JOHN A POPIO,** - March 01, 2019 at 11:50 AM

TH

“ To say that Marv changed my life would be an understatement of galactic proportions. From my first takeoff to my last landing as a CFI candidate, he taught me more about flying and teaching than I can express. And spin training? Whoa, I must have done 60+ spins with him to prepare for my role as CFI. He was always game for another! I will miss his ever-present mentorship, his wry smile, his willingness to share his knowledge, but most of all, I will miss him. Marv was one-of-a-kind, and his absence leaves a hole in my heart.  
(Tim Heron)

---

**Tim Heron** - February 26, 2019 at 09:52 PM