

Anthony "Tony" Wesley Mendenhall passed away peacefully at his home on June 23, 2026, just three days after celebrating his 77th birthday.

Tony was born on June 20, 1949, in Provo, Utah, to Kathlyne Lucy and Kay Wesley Mendenhall. He started his life and grew up in Springville, Utah, alongside his only sibling, his brother Michael Mendenhall, who preceded him in death. Growing up, his Uncle Sam Metcalf was also like a lifelong brother and dearest friend to Tony.

From his earliest days, Tony was drawn to the mountains and the open sky. He spent his life fully embracing nature, living and exploring across Nevada, Washington, Oregon, and Utah.

A natural-born adventurer and skilled mountaineer, Tony dedicated much of his life to the wilderness and public service. He served with the Forest Service Search and Rescue, sharing his expertise in hiking, backpacking, and wilderness survival to help others. He also served his country as a Federal Marshal. An avid outdoorsman, Tony was never happier than when he was boating, camping, hiking high in the peaks, or working as a boatman down the Colorado River.

But it was in the sky that Tony truly soared. Falling in love with aviation at a young age while working with his family's crop dusters, he spent formative time with Bill Lear and achieved the astounding feat of being certified to fly five different Learjets before he was even 18 years old. At the start of his aviation career, he also moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he helped his father build Las Vegas Paving.

From there, Tony went on to become one of the youngest commercial pilots in history. His elite skills made him the pilot of choice for high-profile figures and legendary celebrities; throughout his career, he flew private aircraft for the likes of Howard Hughes, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, John Denver, Steve Wynn, Kenny Rogers, Cher, and Willie Nelson, to name just a few. He shared the skies with countless more notable individuals over the years, with many of them transitioning from passengers to lifelong friends.

Over a legendary career, Tony piloted Cessnas, Learjets, Gulfstreams, Cessna Citations, and Boeing 737s. Of all the aircraft he mastered, his favorite was the McDonnell Douglas MD-11, a complex aircraft that demanded the utmost expertise—which Tony possessed in abundance. Ultimately, Tony retired as an earned, well-seasoned Captain and top pilot for American Airlines.

Tony was gentle, incredibly funny, cheerful, strong-willed, and fiercely dedicated. He was deeply grateful for the life he built and lived it to the absolute fullest, embracing every single moment. Above all, Tony cherished his family, nature, flying, and his friends. Later in life, Tony found a true, pure love with his wife, Shelley. Their relationship brought him immense happiness, marking some of the very best and most beautiful days of his life. Together, Tony eventually found his ultimate peace, ending up in his deeply loved "Flying Dreams Cabin" in Boulder, Utah.

Tony's legacy of adventure, laughter, and strength lives on through his family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Shelley; his sons, Brian (and wife, Laurie), William, Joseph, and Nicholas; his daughters, Terissha (and husband, Mason) and Regan; and his cherished grandchildren, Seth, Bella, Alex, Liam, Luke, and Jude. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In Loving Memory Of



Anthony Wesley Mendenhall

1949 ~ 2026



In Remembrance Of



Anthony Wesley Mendenhall

June 20, 1949

Provo, Utah

June 23, 2026

Boulder, Utah

Graveside Services

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Springville Evergreen Cemetery

Springdale, Utah

Services

Officiating K. Ron Metcalf

Invocation William Rowan, Jr.

Life Sketch Brian Mendenhall

Speaker Tye Metcalf

Speaker Sam Metcalf

Benediction Xander Metcalf

Dedicatory Prayer Sam Metcalf

Casket Bearers

Brian Mendenhall

Lt Col John Price

Sam Metcalf

Xander Metcalf

Mason Schumacher

Tye Metcalf

William Rowan, Jr.

Jimmy Catmull