



Clay Carl McKinney

November 19, 1939 - September 21, 2024

Clay Carl McKinney was living in Los Alamos, NM, to be close to his daughter. He passed away on September 21, 2024, while in hospice following a decline in health due to complications from Covid and Alzheimer's. He was 84.

Clay was born November 19, 1939, to C. Franklin (Frank) and Allene King McKinney. After graduating from Siloam Springs High School, he attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville graduating with a B.A. in English. He then attended officer training and served in the U.S. Air Force for over 20 years. After three overseas tours — first Bitburg, Germany, then Thailand (where he met his first wife, Tavee), and finally Wiesbaden, Germany — he moved with his family to Albuquerque, NM, where he served the remainder of his career at Kirtland Air Force Base, retiring with the rank of captain.

Between 1999 and 2019 he resided primarily in Thailand to rediscover his youth. He was a sensitive man and a good father who imparted his love of dogs and horses, reading and book collecting, an appreciation for the outdoors, and championing the underdog.

He was predeceased by his parents and his twin brother, Steven King McKinney. He is survived by his daughter, Dara McKinney (Michael Steinzig), his second wife Duangjai Buaphet who resides in Thailand, and numerous McKinney and King cousins in Northwest Arkansas and beyond, including: Sally (McKinney) Hensley, Suellen (McKinney) Coleman Chase, Robert McKinney, Martha Nan (McKinney) Medley, Randall Hodges, and Timothy King.

Cremation took place at DeVargas Funeral Home in Espanola, NM. A graveside service for family will be scheduled for Saturday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m. at Oak Hill Cemetery in Siloam Springs, AR, through Wasson Funeral Home. Thank you to the caring staff at Los Alamos Assisted Living while he lived there, and the staff at Los Alamos Medical Center, Los Alamos Wellness, and Anvoi Hospice for his care in the last weeks of his life. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a favorite non-profit organization.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Oak Hill Cemetery
2122 W. University St.
Siloam Springs, AR 72761