



Timothy Ray Eby

June 9, 1944 - October 15, 2023

From a mischievous boy on an Ohio farm to an accomplished pilot, combat veteran, community leader, and much-loved husband, father, and grandfather (still with that impish grin and dry wit), Tim Eby lived a life of integrity, service, and, most of all, love and laughter.

Although Tim loved to tell a good story, he was not one to talk about his own accomplishments. So you might not know that he served in Vietnam with great bravery as a Forward Air Controller (FAC) in the Air Force or was a respected pilot for Delta Airlines for over 30 years. Instead, you probably heard stories that revolved around Tim's relationships with others. He had a knack for connecting with people and was always focused on others, never himself. Most of all, everything he did revolved around his love for his family.

Tim and Judy grew up less than 30 minutes apart in Ohio but met on a train in Colorado, when Tim sat down next to Judy and never got up. Through 59 years of marriage, they raised three daughters and delighted in their four grandsons. Tim and Judy lived in many places during his Air Force career, ultimately making a home and raising their family first in Conroe, Texas, where they formed many life-long friendships, and then in Hico, Texas, where they truly found "home." Tim loved the Hico community and got a big kick out of telling buddies visiting from out of town that they could just stop the first person they saw and ask where Tim Eby lived. (It worked.)

Tim served on the Hico school board and as a deacon in the Hico Church of Christ and was a mentor and friend to folks of all ages. He especially enjoyed encouraging young people who were interested in aviation. In his retirement years, Tim reconnected with many of his fellow FACs from his Air Force days and will always be fondly remembered as “Capt. Skinny.” Tim wrote beautifully about his combat experiences, and many of his writings were included in a published collection of FAC stories.

In addition to being a gifted writer, Tim could build just about anything, from a dollhouse to a kit car. In recent years, he created beautiful windchimes and wood carvings. He loved to sing, read voraciously, and single-handedly put a dent in the area’s feral hog population. During his many travels, he visited every continent except Antarctica (but he still liked Hico best). Tim’s interests and talents ranged far and wide – life with him was never boring!

A rare form of brain cancer drastically changed the last year of Tim’s life, but some things never changed – his deep and abiding faith, his patience and humility, his relentless love for his family, and that great wit and mischievous grin. Even in his final hours, he was full of gratitude and love. In a most fitting final gesture, he passed from this life at sunrise on a beautiful Sunday morning.

There will never be another person like Tim Eby, and his passing is a great loss. For his family and friends, it is an honor to carry his memory.

Please join Tim’s family in celebrating his life at HiCo Hall, 101 W. Ave. B, Hico, Texas 76457, on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023. Visitation will be from 12-2 p.m., with a memorial slideshow at 1:45 and services beginning at 2 p.m. Following the service, Tim will be buried with military honors at Fairy Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Foster's Home for Children (www.fostershome.org) or Blue Moon Sanctuary (<http://linktr.ee/bluemoonsanctuary>), two nonprofits close to Tim's heart.

Cemetery Details

Fairy Cemetery

Fairy, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

HiCo Hall
101 W Ave B
Hico, TX 76457

Video Presentation

OCT **21**. 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

HiCo Hall
101 W Ave B
Hico, TX 76457

Service

OCT **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

HiCo Hall
101 W Ave B
Hico, TX 76457

Graveside Services

OCT **21**. 3:30 PM (CT)

Fairy Cemetery
Fairy, TX

With Military Honors

Tribute Wall

RC

“ Played high school football with Tim. Neither one of us was very good but we enjoyed the game. Tim was a quiet hard worker in the classroom and on the farm. He wanted more than a farm life so headed off to college. Can remember the last conversation we had as we headed off in different directions. RIP dear friend

Richard Crowe - January 06, 2025 at 12:30 PM

DC

“ Judy, Anne and I were so sorry that we couldn't attend the celebration of Tim's life, but you must know we were there in spirit. Tim was such a wonderful man, and we enjoyed our many times together when we traveled to Texas. We first met when I picked up Tim from Pleiku on my way to Cam Ranh Bay in 1971. We didn't realize we had shared that flight together until Tim discovered that fact in his flight log years later. We became close friends during the time when we were both supporting the FAC Association. A friendship that I will cherish all the days of my life. We had the opportunity to go shooting together, fly his Tri-Pacer, eat dinner with you guys and always a trip to your famous “Hico Chocolate Shop,” and most importantly just time to talk and enjoy each other's company. We had so much in common and will always cherish our time together.

We love you both and will never forget our time together and our friendship. God Bless and I know we will meet again.

Denny & Anne Crouch

Dennis Crouch - November 04, 2023 at 09:43 AM

GW

“ Sorry to hear about Tim's passing. We first met in Pleiku when he was one of the "old heads" and I was a newbie brown bar 0-2 FAC. He was a great example and true Warrior.

Glenn Wright - November 02, 2023 at 11:50 AM

GW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Glenn Wright - November 02, 2023 at 11:46 AM

MC

“ Just finished rereading my favorite article from Point of the Spear - "Guns, Bombs and Six Little Ducks" where Capt. Skinny invokes so many of the sentiments of the Vietnam War. God Bless you Tim and your family.

Mike Cryer - November 01, 2023 at 08:08 PM

GR

“ Tim and I shared a good part of a year together at Pleiku Airbase in South Vietnam during 1970-71. He was a terrific pilot and a real professional and a wonderful friend. May he rest in peace. Gene Rose (Covey 517)

Gene Rose - November 01, 2023 at 06:38 PM

PC

“ *Captain Skinny, you will forever be missed. I'll always remember you at Pleiku Air Base, South Vietnam, as one of the senior OV10 "drivers" when I was a new O2A FAC. You stood out, you were respected by all, you flew aggressively and God protected you. Miss ya, Tim, miss ya.*
Paul Curs
Covey 582

Paul Curs - November 01, 2023 at 05:12 PM

MG

“ *Prayers*



Marla Guinn - October 25, 2023 at 05:24 PM

PE

“ *Brother Tim you will be missed. Even though Sandy & I could not attend the funeral our thoughts & prayers were with the family. Phil Eby*

Phil Eby - October 22, 2023 at 08:37 PM

AW

“ Seems like not too long ago November 6, 72 we all started our careers at Delta. Five of us were sent to Houston and had private parties because we couldn't afford anything else. I always enjoyed running into Tim as our careers and seats and planes progressed. "Black Art" as he remembered me because I had a black shirt on and the other Art had a white shirt on. We never flew together but always remained friends. RIP Tim, see ya when I fly west, but not too soon.

Art Williams

art williams - October 22, 2023 at 06:15 AM

DW

“ I did not know Tim when we were all beautiful young men in Southeast Asia. We met as Delta pilots in the late 1970s and flew many trips together. The stories flowed and stimulated a lifetime of friendship. He was a great friend and I shall miss his wise counsel. Our deepest condolences to his family in this time of their great loss.

To Tim, dear friend, a tearful hand salute and the Raven's lament:

I'd have been a better friend but I trusted to time.

Darrel Whitcomb - October 21, 2023 at 12:51 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Timothy Ray Eby.



October 19, 2023 at 09:18 PM



“ Tim was one of the first captains I flew with at Delta. We had a long New York layover. Tim asked the first officer and me (I was the flight engineer) what we had planned for the layover. The copilot was off to visit a childhood friend. I was going to Brooklyn to have dinner with my brother. I told him he was welcome to join me. We took the subway and saw some “interesting” folks while changing trains.

Dinner was in an old pizza place with my brother and several of his friends. My brother took us to Brooklyn Heights Promenade so Tim could view Manhattan from that side of the city. It was a beautiful clear night.

Every time I saw Tim after that he asked about my brother and noted that view/experience on the subway!

RIP Captain Eby.

John Malone - October 19, 2023 at 11:54 AM

DB

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Tim's passing. My deepest condolences to Judy and family.

David Lowell Bowermeister - October 18, 2023 at 05:35 PM

DP

“ Denise Putnam purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Timothy Ray Eby.



Denise Putnam - October 18, 2023 at 12:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Timothy Ray Eby.*



October 17, 2023 at 11:17 PM



“ *RIP Tim. You will be missed.*

jim miller - October 17, 2023 at 10:58 PM



Tim and I met in Pleiku, Vietnam. We were both Covey FACs and flew some missions together. That is where he got his nickname "Dah We Skinny" (Captain Skinny). After Viet Nam I was lucky enough to see him again at Covey and FAC reunions. It was always a pleasure to renew our friendship at these meeting. Throw a nickel on the grass

Jack Muirhead - October 30, 2023 at 11:39 AM



Hard to believe Tim is gone. We were great friends at Pleiku.. While writing QTR, when I asked him to edit a few pages about his first ride with Major Major--thinking I had written that part too strong and negative, Tim made it stronger and more negative. He loved the truth. Fearless, but ample common sense. The world is a lesser place.

Jim Roper - November 07, 2023 at 12:24 AM