

Memories and Condolences on the Passing of Loy Brydon – 2009

November 02, 2009

I was so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts are with you at this time of sorrow. I still remember our meetings during Parachute competitions. After 51 years of parachuting I will dedicate my next jump to the memory of Loy. In Loving Memory

Gerold Reinitzer – Vienna, Austria

November 01, 2009

A great parachuting Pioneer, Warrior, and American has passed on. SGT Loy Brydon, one of the original members of the United States Army Parachute Team, designed and patented the 7 Gore T-U. He was dispatched to pioneer parachute company to advise and oversee the design of the black and gold parachutes with harness and trays for the United States Army Parachute Team. SGT Loy Brydon perfected and taught the team the maximum tracking position. He was one of the most dedicated and unselfish pioneers on the Team. Our condolence go out to the family and friends.

"Let us not grieve his passing but thank God that this brave man lived".

Roy D-41 and Martha Martin - Ellisville, Mississippi

On November 11, 1959 I attempted to make my first 30 second delay over Sicily DZ at Fort Bragg. It was from an L-20 at 7200 feet and after 15 seconds of spinning out of control I pulled the ripcord. I was really discouraged, but when I landed, Loy Brydon walked up to me and said there is a way to get out of a spin like that. He taught me to put my arms back into a delta and suggested I try a position he called the "full frog". I got back into the airplane, climbed to 8000 feet and made a 35 second controlled free fall. In my mind that is when sport parachuting became my life. Thanks Loy, I will always remember you for that day. God bless you. Blue Skies Loy.

Lee Guilfoyle D-50 - Bradenton, Florida

Loy was a legend, a leader and a rock from when I first heard of him in the very early '60s, in Australia. Loy and Tee epitomized the strongest and best in Jumping. It was observed that men flowed round him like water round a fire plug. "Beware! Alpha male here." Loy had the rare gifts of presence, leadership, respect and a certain "Watch yourself" quality. He stood tall in the minds and memories of those who knew him. Live on in the minds of men, Loy. All the best.

Andy Keech – Washington, District of Columbia

Thanks for all your help and wisdom Loy. I was one of your strap hangers in '60 plus you taught us 'tracking'. Sorry I could never be on the Team with you and the guys; however, I was always with you , was looking forward to seeing you at the reunion, maybe in a few more years.

Phil Flynn D190

My first top kick on the APT. Upon arrival he sternly reminded me that I was no longer a hot shot skydiver, but a precision military parachutist - and not to forget it. I didn't. Blue skies Loy...

Rick Young '69-70 – Edgewater, Maryland

My condolences go out to the family. My husband Gary had spoke very highly of Loy.

Karen Ocenas – Madison, North Carolina

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Loy, I can't begin to count the fun times we had together on the team. Thank you for those memories. Thank you for your leadership. The many things I learned from you carried me a long way. You are still with us only in a better place. God Bless. See you later.

Sherman Williford

October 31, 2009

I met Loy in Germany during the World Championships. We became instant friends and he was instrumental in having me assigned to the Golden Knights in December 1965. I will always remember him as a pioneer in the sport of parachuting and a gentleman in the highest degree. May God bless him and his family.

Mel LaVier - Edgemont, Arkansas

I first met Loy at a small club meeting in Manchester CT. Loy and the team had just returned from a meet, probably a World Meet and they were at the meeting of CPI. Loy watched me pack my rig, an orange and white cheapo that I had modified to an elliptical TU. A really hot chute for those days. Loy complimented me on the modification, (I had actually made a second lateral band and my four row stitching on a single needle machine was quite good). I was a new rigger and a very young jumper, maybe 20 jumps at that time but I always remembered how proud I was that he had been interested enough to talk to me and learn who had done the canopy work etc. In the years that followed I became better acquainted with Loy and had the honor and pleasure of his company at Meets, and at Reunions. My prayers and sympathy to the family. The hours and days go by very slowly but the years rush by. Blue skies and warm gentle breezes.

Marge Bates – Windsor Locks, Connecticut

In loving memory of Loy, He was among the best of Sky Diving Pioneers, Original USAPT (GK) member, mentor & friend. We'll always remember him! My condolences to The family.

Lee RK Smith – Thomson, Georgia

Loy, I first met you in 1958 at Ft. Bragg when we started the Corp Sport Parachute Club, I jumped with you many times and each time I learned something new. I was looking forward to seeing you at the reunion this year but the Lord had other plans for you. You are gone but you will never be forgotten. God Bless

Harry Arter – Fayetteville, North Carolina

Our sincere condolences to you Tee & your family. Loy was a great asset to our military family and the USAPT. It has been a distinct honor to serve with him and he will be missed by the many who knew him. Blue Skies!

Jan & Lee Dunlap

From the first day I met Loy in the late 50's, he was always an inspiration to me and someone I looked up to. During all our years on the Golden Knights and the US Team, if I ever needed help or advice, all I had to do was ask and he was there. He will be sorely missed.

Dick Fortenberry – Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

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One of the originals. A great man. God was good to him. He took him too fast. A great guy. I enjoyed every time with Loy and Tee. I always liked looking at his picture at the Team and wondered what a great leader he must have been.

Gary

It was a distinct privilege to have known Loy. As a teammate he was always willing to help out the new guy. Loy was a great NCO and an example to us all. He will be missed. It was an honor to be called his friend.

Gordon Walker – Plymouth, Minnesota

Loy, you will be missed by many friends and family. You were such an inspiration to many people that you have touched in your years. You have left behind a great legacy for many of the jumpers in the world especially the Golden Knights.

Cheryl Stearns – Charlotte, North Carolina

My condolences to the family. Loy will be missed by many that have met and shared your world. Unfortunately you are still leading the way for the rest of us.

George Torrealba – Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

It was definitely my pleasure to have known and served with Loy at the USAPT. Blue skies forever, Loy!

Walt Morgan – Leoma, Tennessee

What an honor to have known Loy. Always helpful and a great guy to be around. He will be missed.

Larry Thompson – Renton, Washington

Loy Bob, My friend, my room mate, my team mate you are missed, my friend. I had the honor to be at your service yesterday, to meet and grieve with your family of our loss. Left Five and give me a cut.

Jerry Bourquin

Just talked to my mom and dad, Dorothy and Carl (Mickey) Robinson (84 years old) and heard about Loy. Vic Holguin called and told them of Loy's passing this AM. My dad, Vic, and I were also Seattle Skydivers based in Snohomish, WA. Loy will be remembered fondly by our family and all the Seattle Skydivers.

Jill & Ned Bailey – Tempe, Arizona

October 30, 2009

Loy was a parachuting icon, and a role model to me personally. He loved his Golden Knight family too...His heart was set on attending this year's 50th anniversary reunion....Soar the heavens in peace brother Loy.....

Spider Wrenn – Fayetteville, North Carolina

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My heart goes out to all Loy's family today and in the days to come. I am so very sorry for your loss. I have many happy memories of Loy who was such a very special person. He will be missed very much by everyone whose life he touched.

Nancy Pierce – Tucson, Arizona

October 29, 2009

Our brief encounters with Loy over the years (every year when we visited his next door neighbors) were always positive. An impressive guy and a very good neighbor. He will be missed. The only guy we knew with a very big chess set.

Paul & Carol – Brewster, Massachusetts

Living next door to Loy for many years has been such a treat. The feeling of security that his presence provided, his interest in our lives, the go-to person that he was and his willingness to share his joys are personality traits that will be missed. What a great person he was. We are so sorry for your loss and hope that your memories are strong.

Mary, Arthur, Grayson & Skylar – Tucson, Arizona

Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. We have many fond memories of skydiving with him and piloting 94 Delta, the jump plane over Snohomish. Loy was a charter member of the Seattle Skydivers and left us with a great legacy.

Charlie & Karyn Markin – Snohomish, Washington

My thoughts and prayers go out to Tee, children and friends of Loy. I only know Loy from KG'S Westside cafe, but will miss him on his stool responding to discussions he was overhearing from my table behind him. His reactions were priceless sometimes. May he rest in peace and may all of us be blessed for having known him. He lived life to the fullest and enjoyed it which is wonderful. Blessings on his family at this time.

Sister Mary Ann Rawson, SNJM – Tucson, Arizona

I got to know Loy from his frequent breakfasts and lunches at KG's Westside- a restaurant that I go to often as well. He was a gentleman, kind and an American hero. I'm glad that I got to know him and he made an impression on my life. I'll miss you buddy.

Dan Hawk – Tucson, Arizona

Tee & Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Best Wishes,
Susy Jannetto

I didn't know Mr. Loy Brydon long, but he made such an impression on me. What a great man. Loy told me many stories and was so proud of his family. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless
Kelly Parnell – Dayton, Ohio

As a neighbor of Loy's, we will miss him riding down the street on his motorcycle and waving, walking his dog so proudly, and just being a wonderful neighbor.

Terri – Tucson, Arizona