



## Eldridge "Al" Udale Kretsinger

March 8, 1942 - September 29, 2021

Eldridge (Al) Udale Kretsinger passed away at the age of 79 on September 29, 2021, with his loving family at his side at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, MN.

Eldridge was born on March 8, 1942 in Hope, ND to Eldridge Delmer Kretsinger and Gladys Maxine Wright Kretsinger. At the age of 4, Eldridge moved with his family to Elkton, SD. While in high school, Eldridge completed a correspondence TV and Radio Repair Course and soon opened his own repair shop in Elkton. After graduation from high school, Eldridge moved to Minneapolis and shortened his name to "Al". In 1964, Al graduated from the Electronics Program at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis. That same year, he married Sandra Marie Ulrich of Plymouth, MN. In 1965, he and a partner purchased Instrument Control Company based in Minneapolis. Their company repaired and sold instrumentation equipment. As a technician, Al's work varied from servicing equipment for auto mechanics to medical equipment for several hospitals in the Twin Cities through American Optical. He received service calls in the middle of the night and drove to North Memorial Hospital and St. John's Hospital, among others, to repair urgently needed equipment. His company's services reached the 5-state area and he would sometimes rent and pilot small aircraft to better serve his clients. In 1989, Al purchased a 4-seat Cessna aircraft which he used for company service calls and special family trips. A favorite adventure was flying his wife, Sandy, and youngest son, Dan, to the West Coast, taking in the beautiful mountain views. Eventually, Al bought out the company from his partner and relocated it to St. Louis Park, MN.

Al's passion for flying began in the early 1970s when he built his favorite form of transportation from scratch in our basement ~ his Benson Gyrocopter! Without any instruction, he mastered flying it and for the next 35 years he loved taking his gyrocopter to the skies! He even made two of his longest flights to Mentone, IN and Oshkosh, WI, and enjoyed participating in gyrocopter clubs and air shows.

Greater than Al's love for flying was his love for the Lord. Evangelism was at his heart. He belonged to The Gideon's International for approximately 40 years and was still an active

member at the time of his passing. He always shared with others about the love of Jesus Christ, and that through believing that He died and shed His blood for our sins and acknowledging our need for a Savior that we, too, could receive eternal life in heaven.

Al was preceded in death by his parents. Al is survived by his loving siblings, sisters Aleta Juergens (Gary), Valerie Berg (Doug), and Laurel Gooler (Mike), and brother Curtis (Jill), including many wonderful nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Al leaves behind a family that he was MOST proud of - his loving wife, Sandy, of 57 years, daughter Lisa Eubanks (Cliff), son Michael (Jolee) and their children Greta (20), Caleb (19), and Joshua (17); daughter Deborah Schmidt (Michael), and son Daniel (Lisa) and their children Bailey (18), Tyler (17), Nathan (13), and Kennedy (7). Al's greatest joy was that all of his precious children and grandchildren knew Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

A celebration of life service may be announced at a future date. A private interment will be held at Dawn Valley Chapel & Memorial Park, Bloomington, MN. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the family.

# Comments

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“ Sandy and Family, So sorry to hear about Al's passing. He was truly a good friend to Chuck. We always looked forward to his visits. Remember them out flying their Gyro's every weekend. Chapter 17 gyro club, working on building their own gyrocopters and many hours flying them. What a great caring person he was and will be missed greatly.  
Chuck and Isabel

**Isabel and Chuck Ryan** - October 11 at 01:00 PM

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“ When Al worked for Uber, he said he always had tracks in the back seat so people might ask about them. He loved to share the truth of God's love! He was always ready to give a reason for the Hope that was in him. Such a special man.

**Ron & Cathie Max** - October 05 at 10:38 AM

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“ My first real memory of my brother Al is him building an airplane at our farm. Built out of wood The propeller was to be turned by inner tube rubber. Needless to say, it didn't fly. Several years later he did build one that flew. Flying was definitely in his heart. Fly high my brother. Love you till we meet again . Laurie

**Laurel Gooler** - October 05 at 08:46 AM

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“ Oh Sandy, I am so sorry! I have been out of town and Doug sent me the news. Al was one of the best and kindness neighbors you could ask for. I know you take great comfort in knowing that he is with God. But it's still a big loss. He will be missed.  
Candy

**Candy Stimson** - October 04 at 05:24 PM