



## Dr. Thomas Jay Stillwell

September 24, 1953 - May 9, 2019

Stillwell, Dr. Thomas beloved husband, father, son, physician, pilot, veteran, and friend, of Plymouth, Minnesota, died on May 8, 2019 in the crash of a single engine airplane near Moose Lake, Minnesota. Thomas Jay Stillwell, son of Adele Koepsell Stillwell and R. Jack Stillwell, was born on Sept. 24, 1953. He joined the US Navy in 1978 and earned his MD in 1982. Dr. Stillwell trained as a urologist at the Mayo Clinic, then practiced on the medical faculty of Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA, where he inspired the next generation of urologists. In 1990 and 1991 Dr. Stillwell served in the first Gulf War in a mobile surgical hospital, treating US Marines as well as Iraqi soldiers. After moving to Minnesota in 1991, Dr. Stillwell practiced as a urologic surgeon in the Twin Cities and throughout rural Minnesota, most recently as a physician with Minnesota Urology. In 1994 he fulfilled a lifelong dream by obtaining his private pilot license. Dr. Stillwell became a longstanding member of Club Cherokee flying club at Crystal airport, where he was known as a meticulous pilot and logged more than 2,000 hours of flight time. Known as the flying doctor, Dr. Stillwell combined his love of flying with his expert and compassionate patient care. Up to 12 days each month he flew to outreach clinics in rural communities, including Mora, Onamia, Moose Lake, and Sandstone, MN, and Grantsburg, WI, to serve patients who otherwise might not have had access to specialized care. Dr. Stillwell was also a member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society of Minnesota. He organized several trips for the members, in which private pilots from the Twin Cities flew veterans to various historical and aviation-related locations. Dr. Stillwell will be remembered for his abundant generosity and remarkable empathy in both his professional and personal lives. He is survived by his spouse, his mother, four children and their spouses, six grandchildren, four siblings and their spouses, as well as dozens of cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father. Visitation 5-8pm Tues. May 14 at Washburn-McReavy Eden Prairie Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial 10:30am Weds. May 15 at St. Olaf Catholic Church, 215 S. 8th St. Mpls, with visitation one hour prior. Burial at Fort Snelling Cemetery in a private service. In lieu of flowers, memorials to St. Olaf Catholic Church or the Surgical Technology Scholarship Fund of Anoka Technical College Foundation. Washburn-McReavy.com Eden Prairie Chapel 952-975-0400 7625 Mitchell Rd (1 blk N of Hwy 5)



# Cemetery

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## Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN, 55450

# Events

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**MAY** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

**14**

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Eden Prairie Chapel

7625 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN, US,  
55344

**MAY** **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

**15**

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St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South 8th Street, Minneapolis, MN, US,  
55402

**MAY** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

**15**

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St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South 8th Street, Minneapolis, MN, US,  
55402

# Comments

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“ We were so sorry to learn of Dr. Stillwell's death. Madeline and our daughter have been friends since their college dsys. My dad was a Marine Corps nightfighter and flew an F4U Corsair, so we understand the love of flying.

In sympathy and friendship.

Ruth and Joe Sippel

High Flight by

John Gillespie Magee, Jr

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, --and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of --Wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew --  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

Ruth Sippel - May 16 at 09:57 AM

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“ Adelle and Tom's family. You have my deepest sympathies. You will be in my prayers

Rhonda Frank - May 15 at 06:16 PM

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“ My husband had him several years ago, was very pleased with him. Deepest sympathy to his wife and families.

Jim & Monica Miller - May 13 at 12:21 PM

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“ Dr. Stillwell has been my doctor for 3 and a half years when he started treating me for bladder cancer at First Light in Mora, it took 12 procedures and a chemo wash to get me cancer free now for 2 checkups. He was an amazing, fantastic, caring, and optimistic doctor. He had the patience of a saint and a great sense of humor. He was

straight forward with his diagnosis to my family and me. He would tell stories of his escapades race car driving, sharing old pictures of his formula one car. We shared many stories of our family outings. He loved talking about his vacations with his family. We will miss him dearly. Our Thoughts and prayers go to his family. Robert and Connie Schreier

**Robert Schreier** - May 13 at 12:20 PM

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“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Jay Stillwell.



May 12 at 08:02 PM

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“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Thomas Jay Stillwell.



May 12 at 11:59 AM