



## Gordon L. Ritter D.O.

October 19, 1940 - March 6, 2015

Dr. Gordon L. Ritter, age 74, passed away on Friday March 6, 2015 at Mayo Hospital in Scottsdale, Arizona, surrounded by his family and wrapped in their love. Memorial services will be held Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 10:00 am at St. Catherine LaBoure' Roman Catholic Church, 2062 Arizona Highway 89, Chino Valley, AZ 86323.

Born October 19, 1940 to the late George and Lucille Ritter of Waverly, Illinois, Dr. Ritter graduated from Waverly High School in 1958. He went on to earn his B.S. Degree in Education at Eastern Illinois University, then his Pharmacy degree at St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 1967. Dr. Ritter graduated from Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, MO with his D.O. Degree in 1971.

In 1972, Dr. Ritter had the opportunity to be the first to bring health care services to the Bullhead City area. Over the years, Dr. Ritter successfully built the practice into a full service medical facility with the cooperation of selected Las Vegas and Phoenix based providers willing to come to the patient. As a driving force for health care in Bullhead City, Dr. Ritter brought healing, comfort, and health to the entire community.

In 1996, Dr. Ritter moved to Prescott and started his practice at Love Field, providing Aero Medical Certifications to pilots as Senior Medical Examiner/Flight Surgeon for Northern Arizona. His experience and expertise helped many pilots, from the professional to the recreational, smoothly and effectively fulfill their medical certification requirements.

As president and CEO of Rittaire, LLC. Dr. Ritter took a small facility consisting of one hanger and an office building and built it into a major facility at Prescott Airport boasting over 55,000 square feet of hanger space. His generosity and leadership touched countless lives through scholarships at Embry Riddle University and Mohave Community College, as well as through his mentorship and guidance to anyone who sought his counsel.

Dr. Ritter was a member of the Arizona Osteopathic Association, American Osteopathic Association, Arizona Medical Association, American Medical Association, Yavapai County Medical Association, Civil Aviation Medical Association, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and a Board member of The Legacy Foundation.

Dr. Ritter is survived by his wife, Celia Ritter, sons Garth of Prescott, AZ, Gregory of Sandy, UT, and Garren (Audra) of Schertz, TX; His grandchildren Georgia, Garret, and Grant also of Schertz, TX, and his brother Gary (Judy) of Prescott, AZ. Dr. Ritter touched so many lives and will be missed by all those who had the good fortune to know him.

In lieu of flowers donations in his memory would be preferred and may be made to, The Gordon L. Ritter, D.O. / Embry Riddle Scholarship fund, c/o Embry Riddle Aeronautical University 3700 Willow Creek Road Prescott, Arizona 86301 or, The Mohave Community College Nurse's Endowment Fund 1971 Jagerson Avenue Kingman, Arizona 86409.

# Tribute Wall

GC

“ *Celia and Garth, I was shocked and saddened to learn only today, March 31st, of Gordon's passing. What a loss for all of us who knew and loved him! He was a respected mentor and I learned much about life and living in the many conversations we had over the years. His love of medicine and aviation, his business acumen, his great sense of humor and his love for family made him a truly unique gift that we will miss. Peace and comfort to you all during this Holy Week.*

*Gary Crump  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association*

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**Gary Crump** - March 31, 2015 at 08:42 AM

SD

“ *Celia, Greg, Garth and Family:  
First, my condolences go out to you and your family. I pray you all find peace during this time of grieving. May strength, love and peace fill your home knowing Gordon was loved by all who had the chance to know him and meet him.  
I had the pleasure of meeting the Ritter Family in 1982 and was immediately treated like family. Gordon, you will be missed but never forgotten! You had a great sense of humor and were very supportive in the many conversations we shared about life and business.  
I know you are looking over your family from Heaven and your smile rains down on them.  
God Bless.  
Scott Dandos*

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**Scott Dandos** - March 20, 2015 at 07:34 PM

MD

“ Celia,

*I was in Montana for the funeral of Cory(died Mar. 9 2015) when I learned of Gordons passing, I'm so saddened and sorry for your loss. I have thought about you often over the years since leaving Bullhead. I'm sure Opal and Henry were waiting for Gordon at those Pearly Gates along with many others. May he rest in peace. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Much love, Michelle Petrie Diaz, Las Cruces, NM*

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**michelle diaz** - March 19, 2015 at 11:46 AM

ME

“ *Too many memories to count and all he did for Wayne and our family. Take care of your selves now. Mary Ellen*

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**Mary Ellen** - March 17, 2015 at 12:24 PM

CS

“ *Gordon I am so sorry to hear of your passing. We shared many years together and walked many paths...all with a twinkle in your eye, a smile on your face and open heart for all. You have crossed my mind many times over the last year or so as I have tried to work through some tricky therapeutic processes. You will always be in my heart and I will always remember your smile. On to your next adventure.... fly high....*

*Cheryl Swan*

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**cheryl swan** - March 17, 2015 at 10:43 AM

AR

“ I was so very sorry to hear about the passing of Dr. Ritter. It is truly a sad day that such a great character is no longer with us. I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences for your loss.

*Adam Rogers - Fly Direct.*

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**Adam Rogers** - March 16, 2015 at 11:53 AM

NK

“ Hi Celia & Family,  
I was surprised to read that my good friend & client had passed away. My wife, Nancy & I send our sincere condolences to you & the family.

*Gordon & I had some exciting times together in Bullhead City that I will always remember. He did so much for Bullhead Community and helped so many people. You always knew where you stood with Gordon. He may be gone but he will always be remembered by all who knew him. God bless you Gordon, we all love you.*

*Celia, any way Nancy & I can be of help and maybe when all settles, we can all have lunch or even a cup of coffee. Times are hard right now but they will get better with time. Time has a way of healing our wounds.*

*God bless you and your family all. You are in our prayers.*

*Doug & Nancy Kurbat*

*Dewey, AZ*



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**Nancy D Kurbat** - March 14, 2015 at 01:00 PM

BB

“ My dear cousin will be greatly missed! One of the driving forces in our family! I personally am grateful for his diligence in searching for the cure and then curing the ear infections I had as a child which prevented me from hearing from age 3 to age 7 allowing my hearing to be fully restored by age 14. Love to you all! Beth

Beth Beasley - March 13, 2015 at 07:50 AM

 Brenda Barrett

“ I had the pleasure of working for Dr Ritter in Bullhead City back in around 1982 I knew him for several years great man always to me. My condolences to the family.

Brenda Vance Barrett

Brenda Barrett - March 12, 2015 at 10:31 PM

DP

“ Dr. Ritter was my first Doctor in Bullhead, in 1972. Dr. Ritter and Mike Paschal PAC both delivered my oldest (Nickolas now 30) child, in the clinic! Then a few years later hired me at the clinic as the first unlicensed staff to do back office work with Mike. This was the first experience in the medical field for me and 30 years later I still love being employed in the medical field! For this I am forever grateful to Dr. Ritter for giving me the opportunity to explore my medical career! Funny thing was my family had moved to Precott in 1995 and stayed for over 10 years and until recently I had no clue he was also living there!!  
I only have good memories of you Dr. Ritter....Rest in Peace!! You'll be truly missed, say HI to Mike while your in heaven!!



Denise Tubbesing Proppe - March 12, 2015 at 08:25 PM

SR

“ Sending our sympathy to you all. He was called in on my first delivery after it got complicated. Walked in and said 'This is going to be a clean delivery. I've got my white shoes on!' It went quite well after that. He managed a terrible boating accident in the middle of my second delivery on a crazy Labor Day weekend. His careful wording to my father- in-law contributed greatly to saving his life and, ultimately, his marriage. He was a sweetheart. Praying God will comfort you in your grief. Love from Rick & Susie Richter

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**Susie Richter** - March 12, 2015 at 06:10 PM

VP

“ My prayers are sent to the Ritter Family He was a wonderful Dr. I remember going to him while I was growing up in BHC. He was a very caring Dr. He was always there for you. He worked so hard to get us a hospital (the clinic on Hancock) . I even took my children to him before we moved away. He was very caring and concerned when I ran into a problem when I was having my second child . He wasn't sure if I would make it to Kingman and he was ready to go deliver her in Golden Valley (going by ambulance) . He listened all the way until I was there.. Again, sorry for the loss Ritter Family Violette (Davis) Phillips



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**Violette (Davis) Phillips** - March 12, 2015 at 05:52 PM

KS

“ As someone else said the twinkle in his eye. I knew Doc from the time he moved here from Bullhead. He was always the professional and always had a kind word. We had friends in common and he always took the time to ask about them or tell me if he had heard from them. The airport community has lost a dear friend. My thoughts and Prayers are with the family.  
*Kathi Schmier*



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**Kathi Schmier** - March 12, 2015 at 05:08 PM

JR

“ I had been going to Dr. Ritter for the past 19 years since I started flying at the age of 16. He was always so helpful and enjoyed hearing his stories. He will be greatly missed in the aviation community. Blue skies and tailwinds Doc.

*My thoughts and prayers go out to his family in this difficult time.*

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**Jared Raymond** - March 12, 2015 at 01:32 PM

JS

“ Gordon was a good friend at ST Louis College of Pharmacy. We both transferred from Eastern Illinois Univ. in fall of 1964. God Bless the Ritter family.

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**Jim Sears** - March 12, 2015 at 09:56 AM

CC

“ Gordon will be remembered as an eternal optimist who never succumbed to negative thoughts or fears. He was a steady leader in the Civil Aviation Medical Association's board of director's...it was impressive to see him come and attend this past year even when his health was marginal. His special twinkle in the eye, a joke or two to lighten things up is what was always expected of this other-centered, caring man. He touched many lives in a positive way. He will be missed.

Clayton T. Cowl, MD, MS  
President-Elect, Civil Aviation Medical Association  
Chair, Division of Preventive, Occupational & Aerospace Medicine  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, MN 55905

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Clayton Cowl - March 12, 2015 at 09:13 AM

GB

“ So very sorry for the loss of your father Garth, praying for you and your family.  
George & Sandy Battaglia  
San Antonio, TX



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George Battaglia - March 11, 2015 at 07:01 PM

NZ

So sorry to hear about Gordy He was a classmate of mine also a cousin he made himself a wonderful life may he now rest in peace  
Nancy Neumann Zulauf

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nancy neumann zulauf - March 13, 2015 at 11:44 AM

FK

Prayers go out to the Ritter family.It was a pleasure meeting Dr Ritter in Bull Head City through my sister in law Dodie Stufflebeam.

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Forrest & Kris Kreider - March 14, 2015 at 10:05 AM

JM

*I'm so sorry about Gordy. He was a good kid and a rascal just like his Dad. I've met a few Doctors who make you feel better just by being there and he was one of them.*

*Celia, my thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Joan Edwards, Wavery High School class of 1955*

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**Joan Edwards Miller** - March 15, 2015 at 11:48 PM

LS

*Gordon first walked into our pharmacy some years ago, and we enjoyed the connection of pharmacy, medicine, and life. Bon Voyage, Gordon! Lance Sandleben/Goodwin St Pharmacy*

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**Lance Sandleben** - March 16, 2015 at 10:17 AM