



## Gerard Arthur Tremblay

May 8, 1957 - May 29, 2019

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Gerard Arthur “Gerry” Tremblay, 62, passed away on May 29, 2019. Born in Holyoke, MA on May 8, 1957, he was raised in South Hadley, MA, by his late parents Joseph (Ralph) and Lillian (Gable) Tremblay.

Gerry graduated from South Hadley High School in 1976 where he was a member of the National Honor Society and yearbook photographer. During his youth, he was a member of Civil Air Patrol and continued to participate and support the Cape Fear Composite Squadron. At the age of sixteen, Gerry received his private pilot license and continued over his lifetime to receive Flight Instructor (CFI & CFII), Multi-engine, Airline Transport licenses and was typed in the Lear and Citation jets. After high school, he attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He received both an Associates of Arts in Aviation Technology in 1978 and his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1980 from Northeastern University in Boston, MA. After college, he was an Instructor Pilot for the US Air Force in San Antonio, TX. The opportunity to attend the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Academy in Oklahoma City, OK to train as an Air Traffic Control Specialist came into his life. In August of 1982, he began his career of air traffic in Groton, CT and retired in 2007 from Wilmington International Airport Air Traffic Control Tower after he and his family relocated to Wilmington in 1994.

On May 9, 1987, he married “his Annie” and arrived by helicopter at the church, much to the surprise of many guests.

In 1987, Gerry received the National Air Traffic Controller of the Year Award for talking down a woman (Mrs. Elizabeth Mohr) whose husband, Frances, experienced a fatal heart attack in flight. Letters of Appreciation signed by B. Keith Potts, Associate Administrator of Air Traffic in 1987, was received for meritorious service to prevent a life-threatening accident as well as his receiving an FAA Point with Pride Award for the event. He maintained a friendship with Mrs. Mohr until her passing in 2016. After the event, Gerry was interviewed by Gayle King and the CBS Evening News regarding his extraordinary life saving effort. An article was also written in Yankee Magazine highlighting the event. In 1985, Gerry also received an FAA Point with Pride Award for coordinating a rescue effort for a downed Cherry Point military aircraft saving the life of the pilot.

During Gerry’s lifetime, he flew as a contract pilot for Applied Analytical Industries, corporate pilot for General Dynamics/Electric Boat Division and Textron. He was a charter pilot for New England Airlines in Westerly, RI and Cable Patrol Pilot for AT&T with New England Airlines. He inspired many and loved speaking to youth about entering the aviation world as a career. One example was his participation in a career day program in a Connecticut high school where he promoted air traffic, flight standards and flight service careers to students. He taught flying to many over the years, and his experience in aviation made him an excellent teacher as he always wanted the most thorough instruction for his students.

Gerry is survived by his wife, Ann; son, Christopher of Wilmington; sister, Suzanne Sullivan of South Dennis, MA; nephew, Jeremy Tremblay of South Hadley, MA; brother, Ralph Tremblay of Danielson, CT; nieces, Joycelin Raho of Litchfield, NH; Pamela Tremblay of Providence, RI and nephew, Alex Tremblay of South Hadley, MA.

A memorial funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 11 am at St. Mark Catholic Church, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC with a

reception immediately following at the NC Sorosis Clubhouse, 20 South Cardinal Drive, Wilmington, NC.

Fly high, Gerry!

Share memories or condolences with the family through [www.AtlanticCremation.com](http://www.AtlanticCremation.com).

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ Jerry found an old paper with your email address on it. Just so you know it's not active any more. I am shocked and saddened to learn of your passing. I can't tell you how many times over the years I have told stories about our flying back in Groton. We sure did have some fun times. I will never forget you and the things you taught me.

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**Kenneth Hopf** - July 10, 2020 at 03:39 PM

RF

“ I am devastated by this news that I only just today received..Gerry was teaching me to fly. I have about 7 hours with him and he was always so happy to be flying..we would meet up at Wallace with always a smile on his face. We had a few things in common: We got married the same year, 1987, we both have a son about the same age. I never had the pleasure to meet Ann and I just want her to know how sorry I am and that he will be missed and I can't imagine a better instructor for me. Tearfully, Rory Flynn

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**Rory Flynn** - July 29, 2019 at 01:30 PM

GF

“ Gerry was a frequent flyer into KDPL and was always very friendly. He loved aviation as much as anybody I've ever met. Blessings to the family.

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**George Futrelle** - July 13, 2019 at 04:02 PM

SC

“ So sorry for his family's loss. Many wonderful memories to cherish and remember.  
Peace with him and continued healing for his family.

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**Sandy Cyphers** - July 12, 2019 at 07:02 PM

SJ

“ *May God comfort you and give you peace...  
G ood ole days on Owens Court  
E njoy life...eternally  
R emember flying  
R etired  
Y earn Florida during hurrincance Florence*

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**Sharon and David and Jonathan** - July 11, 2019 at 06:27 PM

TM

“ *We will miss you. The flying community has lost a great friend.*

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**Tom Mclean** - July 11, 2019 at 01:01 PM

ND

“ *Annie, I will never forget the day we went flying...what a great  
teacher and pilot! So sorry for your loss.  
We love you and continue to pray for you.  
Love,  
Laurel and Jim*

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**Neil & Laurel D'Agata** - July 09, 2019 at 09:23 PM

LL

“ *My deepest sympathy to you and Chris!! I hope you know you can  
call on me anytime for anything !! I will be here for you!!*

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**Linda Lee** - July 09, 2019 at 07:07 PM

SP

“ *You and Christopher r in my thoughts and prayers*

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**Sandy pinckney** - July 09, 2019 at 05:17 PM

JD

“ Dear Ann and Christopher may you both find comfort, support, love and peace from all that you know near and far.

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**June & Mark Dalidowitz** - July 09, 2019 at 04:40 PM

AD

“ Our deepest condolences to Ann and Chris. Our thoughts and prayers are with you now and always.

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**Angela and Barry Dawson** - July 09, 2019 at 01:53 PM