



## Melvin L. Grubb

January 4, 1925 - February 14, 2018

Melvin Lindsey Grubb. 93. "Flew His Last Flight" on Wednesday , February 14, 2018.

Melvin was born January 4, 1925, in Bluefield, WV to Everett K. and Janie Lindsey Grubb. Much like his parents. he never knew a stranger, and had a smile and warm ;h::0" f01 everyone he met. He freely shared his photographs and helped all that he could.

He grew up attending First Christian Church where he was baptized into Christ and continued his Christian life at Westminster Presbyterian Church after his marriage to June Deaumer Grubb in 1948.

Melvin grew up in the "East End" on Bluefield Avenue, Bluefield, WV, graduated from Beaver High School in 1943 and was immediately drafted into the Army . He served in the 213th Field Artillery Battalion 40th Infantry Division in the Pacific Theatre and served in Korea after the end of WWII. He was proud of his service and enjoyed sharing his war stories.

Returning home, he attended Southwest Photo Arts Institute in Dallas, TX on the GI Bill. He then joined the Bluefield Daily Telegraph and the Sunset News Observer newspapers as a photographer. It was there that he met the love of his life, June Deaumer Grubb. They were happily married for 58 years.

In 1949, Melvin established Grubb Photo Service, documenting the life and times of the region for more than 70 years. His images range from underground coal mining to aerial photos and everything in between. He earned many national and state awards for his photographs, including the legendary "Fog over East River Mountain" image that hangs in homes and businesses literally around the world. Mel sold the business to his long time assistant and friend, David McNeil, in 2005 and then established Grubb Aerial Photography.

Aviation was Melvin's other passion. He rebuilt and flew two J-3 Cubs and then stepped

up to his much beloved Super Cubs which he continued to use for photography and to teach his young son, Mark, to fly. Many people of all ages received their first airplane rides with Melvin.

Melvin is survived by his son Mark D. Grubb and wife Kristie of Tehachapi, CA, Lindsey Grubb Barilla and husband Bruce of Bluefield, WV, many nieces and nephews and his much loved feline "kids", Tegan and Tory. In addition to his parents, Melvin was preceded in death

· by his wife June Deaumer Grubb, his elder brother, Lowell and his twin brother, Marvin.

The family would like to express their deepest thanks and appreciation to some very special people who provided aid and comfort during Melvin's final days: Jessica Terry, NP, Dr.

Michael Crews, Dr. Thomas Miller and his staff at Bluefield Regional Medical Center and Sarah, Judy and the Compassus team. The family would also like to thank all that loved him! He was our "Stuperman" as he called himself with a grin.

Always trying to avoid the limelight, Melvin's specified that his mortal remains be cremated and that there be no service. If you desire to honor Melvin, please donate to the church or organization of your choosing and more importantly. befriend those you meet in life. \_just as he did.

# Comments

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“ A true gentleman... He will be missed.



**Patricia Sell** - February 19, 2018 at 08:06 PM

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“ So very sorry for your loss.  
Mr. Grubb took my wedding pictures in 1975.  
He made me look beautiful!  
God speed and fly with the Angels.  
Pam Gillette



**Pam Adams Gillette** - February 18, 2018 at 07:56 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to Mr. Grubb's family; such kind and generous man, he will be greatly missed by many.



**Brian Hartwell** - February 18, 2018 at 10:58 AM

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“ My wife and I are from Illinois but were lucky enough to have met Mr. Grubb last summer. We had the honor and privilege to spend a couple of days with him and his daughter, Lindsey and son-in-law, Bruce.

Mr. Grubb was a first class gentleman along with being the nicest, warmest and most genuine person you could ever meet.

He was so knowledgeable and proud about West Virginia's history, from deep underground in the coal mines to high above the earth where he flew alongside the eagles.

He recorded that love for his West Virginia in thousands and thousands of phenomenal pictures taken throughout decades of time and change.

We and all of West Virginia owe a great deal of gratitude to Mr. Grubb for capturing and forever documenting so much of the state's rich history.

Truly the State of West Virginia as well as the country itself has lost one of it's more precious countrymen.

God speed, Mr.Grubb, and thank You, God, for allowing us to have him in our midst for so long!

Bob and Patty Stumpf

**Bob and Patty Stumpf** - February 17, 2018 at 09:40 PM

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“ With prayer for peace and comfort.. precious in the sight of he LORD is the death of His Saints.

**Gary W Gourley Sr, CDI** - February 17, 2018 at 04:04 PM

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“ My FAMILY and I always looked forward to seeing Melvin and his family every year at our family reunions at Pipestem Resort West Virginia. We had such great times, and of course, Melvin was always there with his cameras and his many beautiful pictures. ~ Betty Woodworth, Dayton, OH

**Betty Woodworth** - February 16, 2018 at 06:32 PM

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“ Mel was a favorite friend of the Kibler family. We looked forward to his big friendly smile and greeting at our church. He was a loved and respected gentle soul and so very talented! He took my daughter’s wedding pictures and was so fun to work with, and of course the pictures were beautiful. I will never forget that he told her he wanted to gift her with a portrait to thank Her for her music and service that he appreciated at our church. Almost every Sunday for years (up until recently) Mel came over to us after church and would say to my daughter “ how are my newlyweds?” Mel will be sorely missed! May God bless and comfort his dear, precious family!!—Margaret Kibler

**margaret smith kibler** - February 16, 2018 at 02:01 PM

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“ Truly one of the greats... I enjoyed known and working with him in the Civil Air Patrol. He would be ready at a moments notice and was a real joy to fly with. I was always awed by the way he lived and had lived his life and the things he saw and had done. Fly high and god bless Mr Grubb you have truly earned your wings now.

**Donald Lyons** - February 16, 2018 at 08:34 AM

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“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time, May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Melvin Lindsey Grubb, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.  
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten..

My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....

US Army Veteran, Melvin Lindsey Grubb, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.  
John 15:13 †

**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Millitary Museum** - February 16, 2018 at 07:19 AM

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“ Elaine Sult lit a candle in memory of Melvin L. Grubb



**Elaine Sult** - February 15, 2018 at 09:01 PM

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“ Words can't express the love that I have for this man. Mr. Grubb was like a second Dad to me and all the kids that grew up on Union Street. It was always a treat to be around him. He would stop what he was doing and play ball in the yard with the neighborhood kids. He'd load up his station wagon with kids and take us to the airport or the park. He was a perfect example of a Dad, husband, businessman and most of all, a friend. The last time I spoke to him, Lindsey brought him to my house to bring me some newspapers and he said, "All my girls have grown up!" He will forever hold a special place in my heart. Fly high, Mr. Grubb <3

**Paula Carriker** - February 15, 2018 at 04:02 PM

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“ Bluefield has lost a wonderful man in the community, he will be missed, Our prayers go out to the family, He blessed so many people over the years, He smile was a true blessing .Betty and Jerry Lester

**Betty Lester** - February 15, 2018 at 02:45 PM