

## **Talmadge Johnson Haas** **April 4, 1942 - April 6, 2021**

Tam, as he was known to the family, was born in Wichita, Kansas on April 4, 1942. He lived with his family in a smallish house on a large lot in Wichita until 1949 when the family spent the summer in converted Montgomery Ward prefabricated garage on a ten-acre "farm" about 50 miles east of Wichita. Realizing the garage wouldn't be suitable for the harsh Kansas winter, the family moved back to Wichita to his grandparent's house.

The family moved to Howe, Indiana in 1957. Tam's parents worked for Howe Military School. Tam and his younger brother, Phil, became Howe cadets. The military school was a major influence in shaping Tam's world perspective. He learned discipline, honor and duty at Howe. He also became a competitive athlete, most notably as a cross-country runner. Tam was cadet commander in his senior year at Howe.

Tam's Howe record earned him an athletic scholarship to Wabash College where he studied zoology and competed for Wabash's cross-country track team. He graduated from Wabash in 1964.

Upon graduating from college, Tam enlisted in the U.S. Airforce. His Howe military training and college degree qualified him for officer training and flight school. Tam's life career was launched.

Tam's U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard service extended from 1964 to 1989. It included four years active duty (including a 12-month Vietnam combat tour) and 21 years in the Air National Guard. He was an HC-130 rescue pilot. In Vietnam he flew the C-7 Caribou - a twin-engine short takeoff and landing aircraft that was used for combat supply and air medical evacuation missions. Tam had over 750 combat hours in Vietnam and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals for his combat missions. He had more than 4,700 hours of military flight time during his Airforce career.

Upon completing his active-duty obligation in 1970, Tam was hired by United Airlines as a commercial airline pilot. That career extended through his 2002 retirement from Delta Airlines as a 767 International Aircraft Commander. It encompassed three airlines (United, Western and Delta) and included over 17,000 flight hours.

After moving to Mercer Island in the 1070s, Tam became involved youth baseball. First as a coach and later as the director of the local youth baseball league. For over 20 years, Tam was, as the local newspaper, The Mercer Island Reporter dubbed him in a feature article: "Mr. Baseball."

During retirement, Tam moved to Florida to enjoy the sunshine, his family and an assortment of dogs. He also spent a year back at Howe Military School as Director of Admissions.

He was a great father to his daughter, a son and a stepson. He was also a doting grandfather to his four grandchildren

Throughout his adult life, Tam was a credit to his country, his family, his children and many youth baseball enthusiasts. Without question, a life well lived.

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