

The Extraordinary Life of



Captain Michael E. Blackstone

Michael E. Blackstone was born in Artesia California and resided in Fullerton, CA for most of his life. He died of lung cancer after a 7-month battle on August 19, 2015 at the St Jude Heritage Hospital at 1445L. He was 67 years of age.

Captain Blackstone flew for American Airlines for 20 years, for AirCal for 14 years, and he retired at age 59 in 2007. Mike began his love affair with flying after taking his first hand's on airplane ride from Daggett Airport near Barstow, CA at age 14. His family will tell you his spirit never came back from that first flight. Mike soloed his first airplane, a Cessna 150, at the Fullerton Airport at age 16 and then taught flying as a CFI until he achieved his lifelong dream of becoming an airline pilot when he was hired at World Airways at 23 years of age. Mike's passion for flying took him to CalPoly Pomona where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering. In 1981, Mike bought a brand new factory built Pitts S-2A and started Blackstone Aerobatics where he became an amazing aerobatic pilot with over 1,300 hours in his Pitts. Mike's degree and his passion for flying allowed him to envision and create what is known today as Air Combat USA in 1986 where individuals can experience being a "Fighter Pilot for a Day" in 25 cities nationwide. His company has successfully flown over 40,000 missions and has been featured on huge television shows like the Bachelor and TopGear UK. Mike was an extraordinary and larger than life character. His accomplishments throughout his life have earned him exceptional status.

He was charming, witty, personable and charitable. He gave back to his community and to anyone who needed a helping hand. Every year he participated in flying doctors to Mexico to treat patients in need of life saving surgeries. He mentored those with talent in aviation and provided the necessary tools for

success.

Michael E. Blackstone lived life with passion and enthusiasm. He is an inspiration and a role model for everyone around him. He encouraged his friends and family to always "Dream big, go all in, and to never give up. You can achieve anything you set your heart on." His family and friends will miss him ... "Now let's go for an airplane ride."

Contact Michael J. Blackstone at skythrills@gmail.com for service information.

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