



John "Bo" William Lichy

September 11, 1947 - October 13, 2019

On Sunday, October 13th, John "Bo" William Lichy passed away at the age of 72. John was born in Freeport, Illinois on September 11th, 1947 to Robert D. Lichy and Luella M. Schoonhoven. He grew up on a farm near Lanark, Illinois where he acquired a passion for flying and for the outdoors. He attended the University of Illinois, and in 1969 he began flying helicopters for the United States Marine Corp. He spent 5 years in the Marines, including a tour of Vietnam. He sailed on a number of cruises, including the South Pacific and the Mediterranean.

In 1974, he married the love of his life, Mary Jo Limpach and they moved to California where John flew for the fire service. He then joined the JG Boswell Company, where he worked for 37 years. They had two wonderful children, Matthew Ryan and Kathryn Elizabeth.

John was known for his love of family and his country. He backpacked, hiked and climbed throughout the high sierras. He also had a love for animals and wildlife, never able to resist adopting a kitten or a new puppy that his family brought home without his permission. He was admired for his compassion, humor, intelligence, and his generosity sharing knowledge and skills. He battled multiple myeloma for over five years, without a complaint, and always with a courageous spirit. John was everyone's hero to the end.

In July 2019, John received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, one of the most prestigious awards the FAA issues. It is named after the Wright Brothers to recognize individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years while piloting aircraft as "Master Pilots".

John was preceded in death by his father Robert, his mother Luella, and his sister Judy. He is survived by his wife Mary Jo, his children Matt (married to Elizabeth Brewer) and Katie (married to Joshua Guerra), his granddaughters Flora and Elis, his brother Karl, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A Mass will be held to Celebrate John's life at 10:00 am on Thursday, November 7th at St. Mary's Church, 608 N Church St, Visalia, CA. Reception to follow at the Visalia Country Club, 625 N Ranch Street. In lieu of flowers, tribute donations can be made to the International Myeloma Foundation, in memory of John.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

NOV 7. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
608 N. Church Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Reception

NOV 7. 11:00 AM (PT)

Visalia Country Club
625 N. Ranch St.
Visalia, CA

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John "Bo" William Lichty.*



November 09, 2019 at 01:51 PM



“ *We adore Bo. What a lovely and slightly crazy (in the best way possible) man. No one will ever rock short lederhosen in the same way. His legacy lives on in his amazing family. Much love to MJ, Katie and Josh, Matt and Biz, Flora and Elis. Amanda and Bart.*

Amanda Lang - November 08, 2019 at 01:38 PM



“ *There are barely words to describe Bo. I've known him since he was about 25 years young, and what an intelligent, adventurous, loyal, and very funny, good man. He put such vigor into his years of life. I can only imagine how deeply missed he is by his loving family ~ Mary Jo, Katie, and Matt. My heart aches for all of you. Bo was one of those rare men who truly was a legend while here. So many loved him, respected him, and learned from him. I will forever remember him. Though I cannot be there today, all of you are near in my heart. Wishing you God's peace and comfort over Bo's memorial service today. Bo will always be with us in special and sweet ways. Much love, Peg Alford*

Peg Alford - November 07, 2019 at 09:16 AM

MG

“ John worked with me at JGB for 26 years and he flew me all over the USA and the California ranch operations. He was a fantastic pilot and friend and we always had fun. He had the doors off the helicopter at times and could take a styrofoam cup and toss it out his door and bring it back into the cab from the opposite door! He would auto rotate the helicopter and simulate a crash landing letting everyone know how safe they were in his hands. I do know that he would not want his ashes dumped out the doors of the helicopter as we were asked to do this once and they blew back into the cab! John was fun, enjoyed life and loved his family and friends. John will be missed by all 🙏 love the Grewal's

mark grewal - November 06, 2019 at 05:54 PM

JL

“ John “Bo” was a great man and he and his wife, Mary Jo, as well as their children, were wonderful neighbors. We used to live a couple of houses away from them in Visalia for many years.

Our hearts go out to the family during this time of loss.

Jim & Linda Luke

Jim Luke - November 05, 2019 at 07:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John "Bo" William Lichty.



November 05, 2019 at 12:17 PM

LO

“ *Jeri and I send our thoughts to you as we remember what a great friend Bo was to us. He had the most wonderful spirit and we will miss him greatly. We will make a donation to the Myeloma Foundation in his name.*

Lee Otto

Lee Otto - November 05, 2019 at 11:59 AM

JO

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Johanna - November 05, 2019 at 11:57 AM

PA

What a precious video and to see Bo just being him authentic self. A lovely story. Thank you! Peg Alford

Peg Alford - November 07, 2019 at 09:21 AM

PA

*Correction....being HIS authentic self. :) He is unforgettable.
Peg Alford*

Peg Alford - November 07, 2019 at 09:23 AM

AL

What a lovely video and story. Thanks for sharing this!

Amanda Lang - November 08, 2019 at 01:32 PM

BB

“ Dear Litchy Family, Our family sends our condolences for your loss. Bo always strived to make each day count and set an example for all of us all to follow in life. His selflessness only became more apparent as he fought adversity and continued to place others in front of himself. His modesty could not hide his boldness as some things are meant to be seen. He will be missed & thought of often.
Sincerely, The Buhls

Bryan Buhl - November 04, 2019 at 06:17 PM

PM

“ Katie, I am deeply and sincerely sorry for the loss of your father. You and your family are in my thoughts. Sending you all love, strength and my heartfelt condolences.

Pat Maher - October 17, 2019 at 09:15 AM