



Wayne Morris Howell

January 6, 1949 - April 18, 2026

Wayne Morris Howell, 77 years old, peacefully went to be with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 12:15 pm. At his passing, he was surrounded by family at his home in Union Grove, North Carolina.

The son of the late Morris and Dot Howell, Wayne was born on January 6, 1949, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy Jean Morgan. He grew up with a developed work ethic and a deep love for family and friends. Wayne graduated from Hattiesburg High School (1967) and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of Southern Mississippi (1971) and an Associate's Degree in Automotive Engineering Technology from Northern Virginia Community College later in life. He proudly joined the United States Navy in 1969 under the AVROC program, retiring with the rank of Commander in 1991. He and Mary went on to successfully own and operate an automotive quick lube in Northern Virginia with their life-long friends (the Gabriels).

Wayne was a loving and devoted husband to his High School sweetheart, Mary Morlan Howell, for over 55 years. He spent his life caring for his family and was a steadfast pillar of strength for Mary and their sons: Richard, Martin and Andrew. Most importantly, he was a lover of Jesus. His faith was the most important facet of his life. He was actively involved in his home churches during his life, serving as a youth leader, usher, musician and singer.

Wayne served during the Vietnam War, flying the EC-130 out of Guam, and continued his aviation career as a flight instructor in the T-28 out of Corpus

Christi, Texas. In the years following, Wayne flew the P-3 Orion anti-submarine warfare aircraft, tracking submarines just feet above the ocean. All told, Wayne recorded thousands of hours and circumnavigated the world twice.

Wayne and Mary spent much of their retired life RV-ing across the United States and Canada, adding hundreds of birds to their life-lists and experiencing life-changing events, much of the time with just the company of each other and the countless friends they met along the way.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Mary; their three sons, Richard (Samantha), Martin (Noelle), and Andrew (Summer); 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Harold (Debbie), and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. His family and friends will miss him dearly.

Visitation will be from 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM Thursday, April 30, at First Baptist Church of Salisbury, 223 N Fulton Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. A celebration of life service will follow at 1:00 PM, officiated by The Reverend Dennis Ackerson and Pastor David Porter. Interment, with full military honors, will follow at Salisbury National Cemetery Annex, 501 Statesville Blvd, Salisbury, North Carolina, promptly at 2:30 PM.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Howell family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com. Flowers or a memorial gift may be sent to First Baptist Church of Salisbury.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 30. 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Salisbury
223 N. Fulton St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Memorial Service

APR 30. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Salisbury
223 N. Fulton St.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Burial

APR 30. 2:30 PM (ET)

U.S. National Cemetery
501 Statesville Avenue
Salisbury, NC 28144

Tribute Wall

DM

“ *Saddened to hear this news. My sincere condolences. Wayne was a fine friend, a gentleman, a fellow officer, and superb professional. Keeping Mary and the boys in my prayers.*

Don Lynch

Donald F Lynch Jr MD - May 04 at 08:18 PM

RR

“ *Ron and Ginny Rowland purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Wayne Morris Howell.*



Ron and Ginny Rowland - April 26 at 02:39 PM

PB

“ *Paul & Lynn Barnes purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Wayne Morris Howell.*



Paul & Lynn Barnes - April 24 at 04:13 PM

JM

“ *Joanie and Rich & Jess and Mark purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Wayne Morris Howell.*



Joanie and Rich & Jess and Mark - April 24 at 02:11 PM

PS

“ Pam Schorle-Pollick purchased the *Blue Caribbe an Bouquet* for the family of Wayne Morris Howell.



Pam Schorle-Pollick - April 23 at 10:48 PM

MR

“ Condolences to Mary and the family. We met Wayne & Mary following my winging in June 1977 and after receiving my orders to VQ-3 in Guam. You both provided us great advice. Loved the dog tricks about "Food costs money....It's paid for!" Also Wayne's tale of Jimmy Buffet "borrowing" his guitar in college; and the rest is history. Truly a wonderful man whose kindness Peggy and I will always remember. God bless Wayne, Mary and the family.

Mike Ragole - April 23 at 04:31 PM

DB

“ David B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Morris Howell.

David B. - April 23 at 09:43 AM

RG

“ Ron and Ruth Ann Guy purchased the *America the Beautiful* for the family of Wayne Morris Howell.



Ron and Ruth Ann Guy - April 22 at 11:58 PM

RG

“ Ron and Ruth Ann Guy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Morris Howell.

Ron and Ruth Ann Guy - April 22 at 11:58 PM

JP

“ Mary and family, I'm sorry for your loss. I always really enjoyed seeing and talking with you and Wayne. So many stories he had. I'm going to miss those times.

Joe Pollick - April 22 at 04:05 PM

KS

“ I flew with Commander Howell as part of Crew 12 with VP-26 in Brunswick, Maine (1985-86). He was a terrific pilot and an even better man. As a 19-year-old kid, he was almost like a father figure while we were on deployment in Okinawa. My deepest sympathy to his wife and family.
Respectfully,
Ken Smylie

Ken Smylie - April 22 at 02:40 PM

DS

“ I remember how cheerful and upbeat Wayne always was and how much he contributed to our squadron VP-45. With sympathy, Don Stanton



Don Stanton - April 22 at 02:07 PM

GB

“ *Glenda Partridge and Gail Boyd purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne Morris Howell.*



Glenda Partridge and Gail Boyd - April 22 at 01:26 PM

BK

“ *So sorry to hear of Wayne's passing my thoughts and prayers are with you. I know about how you feel Bernie joined the Lord January 8 ,this year.*

becky kawa - April 22 at 12:09 PM

PD

“ *Peter, Ken, Chris, Bruce, Dalton, Dave purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Wayne Morris Howell.*



Peter, Ken, Chris, Bruce, Dalton, Dave - April 22 at 12:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wayne Morris Howell.*



April 22 at 11:36 AM

BN

“ *A true Christian man was Wayne. He showed this through the love for Mary, his children, family and friends. Hugs and casseroles.*

barbara niblock - April 22 at 10:21 AM