

OBITUARY

Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

JAKE LAMKINS

William Calvin Lamkins, (age), known to everyone as Jake, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, flew west into the sunset on his final journey on (TBA) at (TBA). He was a former old Frontier Airlines senior station agent and United States Postal Service distribution clerk. Jake was also an atomic veteran, lifelong bibliomaniac, wannabe webmaster, dedicated union officer, renowned animal lover, great humanitarian, wornout world traveler, serial readulterator, retired alpha male and infamous lady hurdler impersonator. He was buried with his cell phone so he could call home.

Born on Old Military Road in Malvern, Arkansas at 2 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, 1942, he was the son of Jewel Key Lamkins and Herbert King Lamkins. He had been a resident of Fayetteville since August 24, 1964.

Jake attended school in Malvern most of his early years but graduated from Memphis, Tennessee Tech High School in 1960. He fought as a welterweight boxer in the 1960 Memphis Golden Gloves. Before joining the Air Force in February, 1961, he worked as a brick truck helper, manual laborer, chicken catcher, carnival worker, plastic cutter and as a quality control lab technician in Chicago.

He was a Cold War warrior and an Atomic Veteran who served nearly four years in the Air Force, 1961-64, based in Texas, Hawaii, Guam, Johnston Island and Thailand. He was the first teenager to win Western Transport Air Forces Airman of the Quarter and was runner-up for Airman of the Year honors in 1962. He got the nickname "Jake" in 1961 at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. A fellow airman poked fun at him for the terrible haircut he had unwittingly gotten from the base barber who was nicknamed "Jake The Barber". Within a week he was called Jake by everyone and it stuck. He was involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Typhoon Karen relief in Guam, SEATO maneuvers in Thailand and the last U. S. atmospheric nuclear tests during his three years with the Military Air Transport Services (MATS). He served nearly three years on the Hickam AFB Nuclear Loading Team.

Jake attended the Universities of Hawaii, Arkansas and Missouri - St. Louis from 1961 to 1968. He remained a student his entire life - reading extensively, writing and doing research on the internet and in libraries on his interests which included the sciences, genealogy and history. All his adult life he hated intolerance, injustice, prejudice and hypocrisy.

While employed for Central and Frontier Airlines for 22 years, 1964-86, Jake worked in Fayetteville, AR, St. Louis, MO, Jackson Hole, WY, San Diego, CA, Midland, TX and Denver, CO. He retired in 1986 when Frontier ceased operations. Two years later Jake began his career with the U.S. Postal Service at Fayetteville. He worked there until August, 2003 when he retired again.

Throughout his working life he was involved with unions and worked to protect the rights of his co-workers. Jake held every office in the Air Line Employees Association from steward to International Vice President during his tenure at Frontier Airlines. He was chief steward with the Mailhandlers Union and steward, vice president, president and editor-publisher of the American Postal Workers Union during his postal career. Jake served two years, 1979-81, as Vice President of the NW Arkansas Labor Council.

He was an ACLU member since 1965 and served on the state Board of Directors 1978 - 1980 and on the NW Arkansas chapter's board 2004 - 2010. Other organizations Jake belonged to included life memberships in the Arkansas Historical Association (since 1997), Friends of the Fayetteville Library (since 2003), Arkansas Air Museum (since 2003), Ozark Society (since 1972), Southern Memorial Association (since 2002), the National Association of Atomic Veterans (he was Arkansas State Commander 2013-) and the National Geographic Society (since 1971). He was also a member of the Washington County Historical Society, Common Cause (since 1970), The Nature Conservancy (since 1979), Council for a Livable World, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, American Postal Workers Union (since 1994), International Rescue Committee and Mensa since 1982. He wrote and published a book of aphorisms, *The Wisdom of Bojang Whyhigh*, in 1984.

After his retirement in 2003, Jake did volunteer work at the Fayetteville Public Library, ACLU, National Cemetery and the Arkansas Air Museum at Drake Field. He served on the board of directors for the Friends of the Fayetteville Library, Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corp., Arkansas Air Museum and the ACLU. He was webmaster for the RNCIC and his Malvern High School classmates for many years. He also edited & published a newsletter and maintained several internet websites for ex-Frontier Airlines employees. After retirement he continued serving the Fayetteville American Postal Workers Union as webmaster. He also reviewed articles for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas. Jake served as Arkansas State Commander for the National Association of Atomic Veterans from 2013 until his death.

Predeceased by his parents, two younger brothers, Link & Rik and a nephew, Shane; He is survived by his beloved daughter, JJ Lamkins of Greenland; his former wives, Lisa Causey and Susan McChristian; brothers Steven Lamkins of Memphis, TN and David Davies of Hattiesburg, MS; nephew Graham Davies of Hattiesburg, MS and niece Amber Lamkins of Houston, TX.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation, PO Box 4221, Fayetteville, AR 72702 to aid in land acquisition for the Fayetteville National Cemetery.

Memorial services will be at (Date, time) at Moore's Chapel and burial in the Fayetteville National Cemetery. There will be a celebration-of-life-reception afterwards at the Mexico Viejo Restaurant on Martin Luther King Street in Fayetteville.

Honorary pallbearers are the former employees of Central Airlines and the "old" Frontier Airlines.

-Updated June 10, 2016