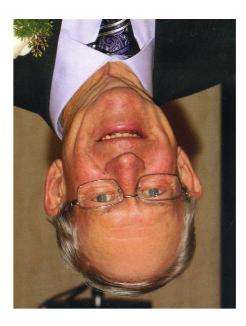
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## Impressions of a Pilot

Flight is freedom in its purest form, To dance with the clouds which follow a storm; To roll and glide, to wheel and spin, To feel the joy that swells within; To leave the earth with its troubles and fly, And know the warmth of a clear spring sky; Then back to earth at the end of a day. Released from the tensions which melted away. Should my end come while I am in flight, Whether brightest day or darkest night; Spare me your pity and shrug off the pain, Secure in the knowledge that I'd do it again; For each of us is created to die, And within me I know. I was born to flv. — Gary Claude Stoker



Verne was born on his family farm on April 22, 1940 south of Etters beach, SK. He married Doris Allan from Watrous in August 1966. They had 4 children: Carman Verne, Tyler Scott, Karla Lucille Rae (Kevin) & Lisa Pauline Vance (Sheldon).... 7 Grandchildren.... Harper Rae, Cooper Vance, Sydney Vance, Weston Wilcox, Marlon Wilcox, Sean Wilcox & Robert Wilcox. Verne has one brother Mark (Ute), sister-in-law Joan Harding (Don), brother-in-law Dwight Allan (Shirley) and several nieces and nephews. Verne was predeceased by his parents, Elmer & Lucille (Weeks) Wilcox, sisters Myrna and baby Betty Lynn Wilcox; his mother & father-in-law, Norman & Ethel Allan; brother-in-laws Paul Smorodin and Russell Allan; sister-in-law Eleanor Allan; and niece Rhonda Rae (Smorodin) Elke. Verne always enjoyed his special relationship with the Gustafson Family. Verne was born to be a farmer and began his lifelong career at the early age of 10 taking apart and putting back together everything he was interested in. He was a grain and cattle farmer. He always said that when there was a drought or poor crop coming, he would be thankful for the herd of Herefords because he knew if he hung on the cows tail it would always pull him through. When Verne was 24 he told his Mother he signed up for flying lessons at the Regina Flying Club. She wasn't impressed but had to get used to it. He got his pilot's license and purchased his own Cessna taildragger at the age of 25. His call letters were CF-RYS. In 1975 he purchased a Cessna 182 with call letters of CF-GPA. Some of the flying destinations Verne took us on were the Black Hills, SD (honeymoon), Phoenix, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Montreal, Thunder Bay, Texas, Toronto and many other destinations. He had a 40-year membership with the Saskatchewan Flying Farmers where lifelong friendships were made and remain today. He built a lighted runway and flew us to movies in Regina, always with a couple of friends in the backseat to fly home in the moonlight. We even flew 1 mile to the neighbours for a quart of cream to make ice cream just for fun!! Verne was famous for the legendary Etters Beach Peanut Drop. He would drop 50 pounds of peanuts to the delight of children and everyone who were eager to collect peanuts. It was a sad day for all when at the age of 80 he sold that plane and it flew off to Alberta. Verne had an endless list of hobbies. He enjoyed camping, building and remodelling, inventing things like tractor cabs and an awesome display of model trains. He loved to moose hunt, fish, read, dance, and playing the saxophone in the Liberty Orchestra. He was an avid skier and would head to the mountains with a motorhome full of kids. He loved to travel by air, motorhome and by car. We went on many cruises and he always enjoyed a tour of the engine room on the ship. He also travelled to Norway twice with the Gustafson family. He loved old things much more than new. If you ever saw him in his remodelled 1963 Lincoln he would be in his glory. He was a wonderful family man who enjoyed the company of children and grandchildren. He was always impressed with their stories and accomplishments. He had many dear friends and relatives and will be missed by all.

In loving memory of

## **ELMER VERNE WILCOX**

aged 81

PRIVATE FAMILY MEMORIAL SERVICE
Friday May 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
Imperial Community Centre
Imperial Saskatchewan

OFFICIATING Rev. Ray Purdie

URNBEARER Carman Wilcox

SPECIAL MUSIC Harper Rae

EULOGY Tyler Wilcox PIANIST Sharon Crittenden

PRIVATE FAMILY INTERMENT
Officiating Wanda Gustafson
IMPERIAL CEMETERY