

Terry Dwight Geers, of Naperville, Illinois passed away on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. He was born on April 8, 1951 in Fremont, Michigan to Fred and Tena (Vander Haag) Geers.

Terry grew up in the small town of Grant, MI where he spent his childhood outdoors, hunting, fishing, and working on the farm. He attended Grant High School and was active in football, basketball, and track. After graduation in 1969, he attended the Air Force Academy where he played four years of rugby, purchased an orange Corvette, and spent plenty of time skiing. He graduated from the Academy in 1973, went to flight training, and became a T38 instructor at Reese Air Force base in Lubbock, TX. There, he met Cathy and they eventually married. His flight career progressed at Scott Air Force base in IL where he became a C9 pilot and continued his service in the reserves before retiring from the U.S. Air Force as a Major after 20 years.

As his military career advanced, Terry and Cathy started their family with the birth of Erin in 1977 followed by Kevin a couple years later. The young family relocated to Naperville, IL in 1981 when he started his commercial flying career with Midway Airlines. In Naperville, strong roots were established where he was active in the community and committed to his faith through his support of Knox Presbyterian Church. After a fulfilling career in aviation Terry retired from United Airlines in 2015.

Terry was fiercely devoted to all things family which was his number one priority. He was an active participant in coaching his kids' youth sports, supportive of their endeavors, and even shared his excitement for skiing with them. This excitement continued and even accelerated when he was blessed with four grandkids. He was always on the sidelines cheering them on, on the field practicing with them or providing them with all of his wisdom.

Terry couldn't sit still, he was never complacent. In his forties he developed an interest in running which developed into a passion, going on to complete 25 marathons. He had a love/hate relationship with golf, but always came back for more, particularly when his son or grandson was involved. His career allowed him to see much of the world and that drove an appetite for travel, exposing his extended family to all sorts of experiences from coast to coast. When Terry wasn't involved with sports or travel, he was also the ultimate do-it-yourself handyman. If he didn't have his own home project going on, you could find him helping someone else with theirs.

We are confident God has an amazing plan for him in heaven. Papa was a kind and selfless man who will be forever missed by family, friends, and the strangers he never got a chance to meet.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Cathy (Hodge) Geers; daughter, Erin Robertson and husband Mike; son, Kevin Geers and wife Allison; grandchildren, Isaac & Brooke, Tyler & Ryan; sister, Judy Dalrymple and husband Jim; brother, Dean Geers and wife Tara; nieces and nephews, and many dear friends.