

Gone But Not Forgotten: Victor H. Singleton CS-19 Class of 1973

Victor H. Singleton (Vic) 59 of Afton, TN died June 5th, 2010 at his home after a valiant fight with prostate cancer. Vic was a quiet, determined person who made a huge difference in others' lives and did so in a humble and steadfast manner.



It was a joy for the '73 Playboys to spend our four years at the Academy with Vic. He was our quiet striver who helped classmates in academics and often rescued squadron mates when cars failed. Yet he was always available for a pick-up game of basketball, flag football, or racquetball. Vic loved the mountains, especially his Appalachians, and would often hike around the Front Range and share experiences about growing up in Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee. You just knew that whatever the task Vic would be there to help. During our senior year he was one of our squadron's intramural boxing coaches and a member of the Wing Championship cross country team. He played a significant part in all of our intramural sports. In retrospect, we recognize that he was a very strong link in our chain of camaraderie. Families outside of the Academy also felt Vic's impact. One of the families that sponsored CS-19 cadets recently told us that while all the Playboys were great people, Vic was their absolute favorite. He was like a big brother and a dad all in one. He was a great listener, patient helper with their studies and life, and friendly driver who spent time with them riding in his bright blue Dodge Demon.

Vic was first assigned to Moody AFB, Georgia, for pilot training. He then flew the KC-135 at Travis AFB California, and in Vic's words "spent many a day on alert." Always putting family first, Vic responded to his family's needs and returned to Bristol, Tennessee, after completing his flying commitment. He partnered with his mom to achieve her life-long goal of owning a restaurant. He also helped his siblings pursue higher education degrees. Later, he worked as the Quality Engineer/Quality Assurance Manager at several firms in Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee. Vic married Sandy Mitchell in 1986. They raised two great sons, Jesse and Joe. In his last year, Vic was blessed to meet and get to know his first grandson, Alex. Vic made many close friends in the community of Afton and was well known for his love of golf. Five of us from CS-19 were able to attend Vic's funeral. There we gained a new appreciation of his life-long impact on others. He was a citizen soldier who always put his nation and family before self.

It was fitting that he was honored by a missing man fly-by at his funeral. The flight of two T-34 Mentors and a T-6 Texan was led by Wes Stowers (USAFA Class of 1976) in the T-6. Wes was a 4th classman in CS-19 when Vic was a senior and was on the boxing team with him. One squadron mate said it best: "Looking back, his quiet, selfless attitude was indeed remarkable—the irony being that people like Vic seldom get the appreciation they truly deserve, when indeed their character and values put them well above the more visible majority." Vic is the first from CS-19, Class of 1973 Playboys to pass on. Once again he is quietly leading the way. Another classmate said: "Vic has gone ahead of us and has the guidon....he will be there waiting to gently take us for a ride when we report in."

CS-19 Playboys, 1973