



## Jay Clinton Rhoten

July 25, 1957 - November 23, 2024

Jay C. Rhoten, 67, passed away on Saturday, November 23, 2024, in Larimer County, Colo. He was born July 25, 1957, in Memphis, Tenn., to Ralph and Marcia Rhoten. Due to his father's career in the U.S. Air Force and as an air traffic controller, Jay grew up in Mississippi, Alaska and Kentucky. He graduated from high school in 1975 and attended the University of Kentucky on an ROTC scholarship, graduating in 1979 with a degree in business.

After college he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army and was stationed at Fort Ord Military Base in Monterey, Calif., where he met his wife, Patricia Botelha. They were married on Sept. 25, 1982, in Monterey, Calif. Jay served in the Army reserves for 21 years and retired as a Major. Their son Joshua Rhoten was born Oct. 2, 1986, in Monterey, Calif.

Jay got in early with the tech boom in the Bay Area of California and worked in information technology with EDS and CompuCom before transferring with CompuCom to their new location in Denver, Colo., in 2001. He worked for Denver Water before starting his dream job with the National Park Service (NPS) in 2007 at their Fort Collins, Colo., location. Jay worked in information technology with the NPS for the past 17 years.

Jay's volunteer activities over the years have included working with Cheyenne Frontier Days to help with the Thunderbirds Airshow, Wings over the Rockies

Museum, and the Civil Air Patrol for the last two years.

Jay always had a passion for aviation. He received his pilot's license after he married Patricia, and flew for several years before his son was born. He enjoyed traveling to air shows throughout the country, including an annual trip to the Reno Air Races. When he wasn't traveling to an air show he would happily run errands just so he could also drive by a regional airport. At home, he surrounded himself with plane models, photographs of planes, and books on aviation.

Jay loved his family. With his wife, he enjoyed traveling throughout the country visiting National Parks, monuments, and heritage sites, anything that got him a stamp in his National Parks passport. With his son he enjoyed hiking local trails and chatting about baseball and all sports. He was a committed Kentucky basketball and Cincinnati Reds fan. A family event was seeing the latest Star Wars or Marvel movie, going to a baseball or football game, and the occasional trip to a Disney Park.

He is survived by his wife Patricia Botelha Rhoten; his son Josh (Sara) Rhoten; sister Sharon (Paul) Kucyk, niece Kolby (Tim) Gayson, and Cooper Kucyk; sister-in-law Evelyn Marion, niece Karen (Scott) Larson and their son Jake, nephew Matthew (Lina) Marion and their daughter Emma and son Forrest, nephew Brian Marion; brother-in-law Paul (LaVonda)

Botelha, and nephew Arthur (Kaitlin) Botelha; aunt Barbara (Jerry) Nugent; multiple cousins; multiple friends; and grand dog Bridger.

He is preceded in death by his father Ralph Rhoten and mother Marcia Rhoten; mother-in-law Isabel Botelha; uncle Clifford Rhoten; and grand dog Max.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in the spring of 2025. Flowers and support for the family are of course welcome in the care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel in Fort Collins, Colo., but the family is also encouraging donations of any type to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Jay's honor.

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ I worked with Jay on a daily basis at the ASK Computer account in Mountain View, CA in 1992-1993 where we were employed by EDS. He treated everyone with such respect, and we would gather in his cube in the late afternoon to discuss support issues for the day, and after business was concluded, we would discuss Star Trek episodes and he would share his M&Ms from the Mickey Mouse dispenser in his cube. He was a true friend and I will miss him.

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**Robert Maltas** - April 21, 2025 at 10:22 PM

SR

Thank you Robert! I'm Jay's daughter-in-law and I shared this note with Josh and Patricia. We appreciate the memory and it brought us a smile and a laugh!

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**Sara Rhoten** - July 15, 2025 at 12:18 PM

JN

“ Sending sincere condolences to Jay's family. He made a difference in the National Park Service. He will be missed.

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**Jenifer Noss** - December 09, 2024 at 04:00 PM

WI

“ As a fellow Army veteran of the same generation and a long-time friend/colleague of Josh (son), I am deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden loss of Jay over the Thanksgiving weekend. I had only met Jay briefly, but I was aware of his vibrant sense of life, family, work, sports, patriotism and extracurricular activities, including aviation and the Civil Air Patrol. No doubt his meaningful life will provide many memories for his family and friends during these difficult times. I offer in the words of the last stanza of the West Point Alma Mater, “May it be said Well Done, Be Thou at Peace”.

*Dr. William Doe (LTC, US ARMY Retired), University of Colorado-Boulder*

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**William W Doe III** - December 04, 2024 at 03:56 PM

SY

“ The Buckley SFB military Retiree Activities Office (RAO) would like to offer our sincere condolences and our gratitude for Maj Rhoten’s 21 years of service to our country in the Army. If you would like help with any matters related to casualty assistance, Defense Finance & Accounting Service, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), Veterans Affairs (VA), etc. you can contact our office on Buckley SFB at 720-847-6693 or raobuckley@gmail.com. The RAO is staffed by volunteers, all military retirees themselves, and our sole purpose is to provide assistance to any military retirees and surviving spouses/family members with anything related to their military service and/or benefits, in particular during difficult times such as this. We are deeply sorry for your loss.

*Steve Young  
Lt Col, USAF, Ret  
Director, Buckley SFB RAO*

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**Steve Young** - November 30, 2024 at 02:44 PM