



# Richard Allan "Chappy" Chapman

JAN 19, 1944 - AUG 12, 2025



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# Richard Allan "Chappy" Chapman

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## In Loving Memory of Richard Allan "Chappy" Chapman January 19, 1944 – August 12, 2025

Richard Allan Chapman, affectionately known to all as "Chappy," took his final flight on August 12, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of adventure, ingenuity, and unwavering love. Born in Albany, California to Norman and Juanita Chapman on January 19, 1944, Chappy lived a life that soared far beyond the ordinary.

A proud veteran of the United States Navy, Chappy served with distinction in the VA-113 Stingers Attack Squadron, flying the A-7E Corsair II from the deck of the USS Ranger (CVA 61). His passion for flight, ignited in those early military years, became a lifelong pursuit—one that shaped his identity and brought him joy for nearly six decades.

After earning his degree in Electrical Engineering from San Jose State University, Chappy embarked on a remarkable career at Bently Nevada. Over the course of 30 years, he rose through the ranks from manager to President, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues for his sharp mind, steady leadership, and hands-on approach. Whether he was building, fixing, or innovating, Chappy's curiosity and craftsmanship were unmatched.

But it was outside the office where Chappy's spirit truly soared. He was a man of boundless energy and fearless exploration—backpacking through Southeast Asia, walking pilgrim trails in Portugal and Switzerland, scuba diving, wilderness camping, fly fishing, road biking, and even flying his plane to Grenada. If it involved movement, challenge, or discovery, Chappy was all in.

In his later years, Chappy became a beloved fixture at the Minden-Tahoe Airport, mentoring fellow aviators, sharing stories, and zipping around in his iconic pink golf cart. Yet, for all his accomplishments and adventures, his most treasured titles were father and grandfather. His grandchildren lovingly summed him up: "Papa eats peanut butter, smokes cigars and drinks whiskey." That simple phrase captures the warmth, humor, and authenticity that defined him.



## Obituary

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Chappy is survived by his daughters Heather and Allison; his sister Linda; his nieces, nephew; three adoring grandchildren; and a wide circle of friends who were lucky enough to be part of his orbit. He is preceded in death by his parents Norman and Juanita, his sister Patsy, and his cherished son Thomas.

Graveside services will be held at Eastside Memorial Park in Minden, Nevada on Saturday, September 27th, 2025 at 10:00 AM, followed by a celebration of life at the Minden-Tahoe Airport at 11:30 AM —where stories will fly as freely as the planes he loved.

Fair winds and following seas, Chappy. You lived life with your wings wide open.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks you donate to Recreational Aviation Foundation. Thank you, kindly.

<https://theraf.org/>




# Events

**Richard Allan "Chappy" Chapman**

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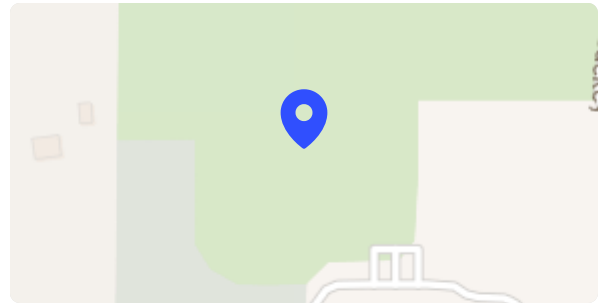
## Graveside Service

 **Saturday**, September 27, 2025

 10:00 AM PT


 **Eastside Memorial Funeral Home - Park - Cemetery**

1600 Buckeye Rd, Minden NV 89423-4126



## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, September 27, 2025

 11:30 AM PT

 **Minden Tahoe Airport**


1146 Airport Road, Minden NV 89423

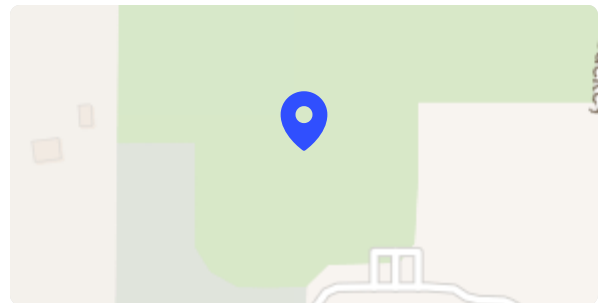


## Cemetery Details

 **Eastside Memorial Park**

1600 Buckeye Road, Minden NV 89423

 **775-782-2215**





## Tribute Wall

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SD

**Seena Drapala** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Rich hired me at Bently Nevada after the GE acquisition. He was a great boss and friend. I remember him taking me to Solar Turbines in San Diego. He wanted to assure them that this woman engineer from GE was not a competitor but the new Bently Nevada Senors' New Product Manager. He was very supportive. My husband, Joe, always loved Chappy's flying stories. Hearing the early Bently stories at the ASME History & Heritage Landmark dedication ceremony in Roger Harker's hanger was great. Fly high, Chappy!



September 27 at 5:10 AM

HK

**Hans Kooijman** posted:

Remembering Rich: Mentor, Colleague, and Friend  
First Encounters and Early Guidance  
I first met Rich in 1980 at the American Power Conference, just after I joined Bently Nevada's Chicago office. Right from the start, he became not only a mentor but also a friend. Over the years, I had the privilege of working for him in various roles, learning a tremendous amount along the way.  
Memorable Moments  
Beyond Work  
Rich was always enjoyable company outside the office. He had an endless supply of captivating stories and a sharp sense of humor that could lighten any room. During visits to Minden, there was always a wild evening or two to remember - often spirited, yet never crossing the line.  
Anecdotes and Nicknames  
At a sales meeting in Myrtle Beach, having just grown out my beard, Rich took one look at me and quipped, "Man, you sure are one hairy bastard!" He affectionately called me "Koogieman," greeting me with a big smile whenever we met.  
Fond Farewells and Lasting Friendship  
After the Minden Reunion in 2019, we all gathered at the CVI afterward. My wife, Bettina, had called it a night early. Rich, with his usual wit, asked, "Where's Bettina? She's a lot more fun than you." That's when you know you have a good friend, someone who can poke fun at you with genuine affection.  
We will miss you, Chappy. We had hoped to cross paths again on a future trip through Minden with our motorhome.

August 29 at 9:57 AM

FE

**Ford Easton** posted:

I reported to "Rich" for a number of years during my 25 years with BNC. A great mentor and I learned from him in my management roles. One thing I remember was he wanted his managers to make their own decisions unless major and not run everything by him. Rich and I did a number of BN seminars together and one was in Pittsburgh back in the day. Something malfunctioned with the fire alarm system the night before the seminar and all of us were outside in the parking lot except for Rich. Finally Rich came out and I remember him saying, "what is the problem". That same night heavy rains and next morning floods in the area of our hotel so many of those signed up to come didn't make it. Man I sure enjoyed being a co presenter at those seminars with Rich, Ford Easton

August 26 at 5:49 AM



## Tribute Wall

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LH

**Larry Hern** posted:

In loving memory of my good friend Chappy. He was a unique character without trying to be one. He was unique in that he could build his own airplane and fly many hours in the skies of Montana. I admired him and have many stories to tell like the time he tried to teach me how to safely chew a martini glass and then spit the broken glass out without cutting himself. Needless to say I failed the test, but Chappy would entertain the bar many times over. The news of the crash shook us but if he had a choice as to the way to go, it would have been in his own airplane. Chappy, my buddy, fly high with the other angels and touch your friends and family with love forever. Larry Hern former Navy wingman

August 24 at 4:30 AM

MG

**Mark Gilstrap** shared a photo to the **BNC** album.



August 23 at 4:54 PM

DS

**Don Silcock** posted:

Although almost universally referred to as "Chappy" I knew him as simply Rich and he had a major impact on my 25 year career with Bently Nevada. I first met Rich when he came down to Australia in about 1998, about a year after I had been promoted to run the business there and was very much trying to find my way... We got on well from our first customer visit together and I knew I had found my role model - he really understood the business, was wonderful with customers, trusted you and was great fun to be with. He became a mentor to me and I was fortunate to travel with him in many locations over the years, with Indonesia, China and Japan being the absolute standouts! I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have known Rich and to have been mentored and guided by him plus count him as a true friend. A truly wonderful human being who will be sadly missed - thank you Rich for everything you did and (most importantly...) the way you did what you did! Don Silcock

August 20 at 6:26 PM

LW

**Lorri Williams** August 25 at 8:07 AM

Rich was one of my mentors, and a great boss as well. He was not only a great man, he was a Bently icon. When we travelled to Warrington England office, he took personal care to ensure my safety, and show me around. I still owe him a beer, and will drink one in his honor! I'll miss running into Chappy around town and at our Bently get togethers. Rest in peace my friend.



## Media

## Richard Allan "Chappy" Chapman

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Seena Drapala shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

September 27 at 5:10 AM





## Media

**Richard Allan "Chappy" Chapman**

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August 23 at 4:54 PM



Old Bently Buds



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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