



## Sherrod Lynn Coltharp

December 10, 1940 - April 27, 2020

Sherrod Lynn Coltharp was born December 10, 1940, in either Terrell, Texas, or Hobbs, New Mexico, depending on who you ask. He passed away peacefully April 27, 2020, in Owasso, Oklahoma, at the age of 79, with his wife of 57 years, Sallie Ann Bantz Coltharp, at his side. He is survived by his wife; two children; Richard Coltharp of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Christy Coltharp Smith (Chad) of Jenks, Oklahoma; four grandchildren: Jessica Grisak (Tyler) of El Paso, Texas, George Ryan, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Kyla Ryan, of Flagstaff, Arizona, and Avalon Coltharp of Las Cruces, New Mexico; and a niece, Kelly Coltharp Gillham (Lou), of Fort Worth, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kary and Frankie Coltharp, and a brother, Don Coltharp.

Sherrod Lynn Coltharp grew up in Fort Worth and graduated from Polytechnic High School in 1959. After attending Texas Institute of Technology, he embarked on a long career in petroleum technology, and retired early from Amoco/BP in 1999. He moved his family to Tulsa in 1969, then to Owasso, Oklahoma, in 1983, where he lived until his death.

He earned his private pilot's license in 1975, and flying remained his passion. He built two airplanes during his lifetime, a VariEze, which he first flew in 1981, and a Rans Coyote, which he first flew in 2007.

His career took him all over the world. He found business and/or pleasure in places such as Great Britain's North Sea, Alaska, Japan, and the Great Pyramids, of Egypt. He visited 49 of the 50 states, passing up several

chances to go to Hawaii (“Why in the world would I want to go hang out on a beach?”)

He loved family, friends, dogs, and the occasional barley- or agave-based beverage. He enjoyed a few things more after a long day of work and play than sitting in front of the hanger in his backyard of an evening, often after a home-grilled dinner, relaxing with family and friends, watching the unpredictable Oklahoma weather put on its nightly show.

Lynn was a fan of Dallas Cowboys football and Oklahoma City Thunder basketball, but only went out to the movie theater once in his adult life.

Over the years, he was a longtime member of, and held several volunteer positions with, the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 10 and the First United Methodist Church of Owasso. Upon his retirement, he spent several years volunteering with the AARP, helping others do their taxes. He was also a longtime member of two area social groups, the Beer Group and the Friday Group.

In the past dozen years, he had overcome two cancers, bladder and prostate, and had three heart surgeries. He passed away with complications of Parkinson’s Disease and heart failure.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at Mowery Funeral Service in Owasso. His life will be remembered in a small family service Thursday, April 30, 2020, with Pastor Jim Cinocca of First United Methodist Church in Owasso officiating. Final resting place will be at Floral Haven Memorial Gardens, in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. The family hopes to host a larger Celebration of Life service later in the year. They also request memorial contributions be made to your favorite charity.

Arrangements and services were entrusted to Mowery Funeral Service of Owasso.

[www.moweryfs.com](http://www.moweryfs.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Floral Haven Memorial Gardens

6500 South 129th East Avenue  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 29. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service  
9110 N. Garnett Rd.  
Owasso, OK 74055  
(918) 272-6244  
<https://www.moweryfs.com/>

# Tribute Wall

BM

“ Sallie,

*So, so sorry to see this obit tonight. I was looking for your phone number to ask you a question about how the guys moved the company vehicles from place to place. (Doing my family stories for great grandkids.)*

*My memories of this guy are to many and fun. Playing pinochle, hearts, making chow-chow, making experimental dishes when I was learning to cook. He wouldn't come to eat if it was something new.*

*The time the guys killed a deer on their way home from work and came in with blood all over them. He stored some of the meat on top of the house when the temp was 0 degrees or less. Then smelling the odor when springtime arrived.*

*When the guys saved the lives of a woman and her three kids on Thanksgiving Night. Their car was stuck in a snowbank in the Badlands of North Dakota. The woman was on her way to see her husband in the hospital.*

*Helping a farmer keep his herd from freezing. In the same area.*

*Naming his son Richard David because it sounded important and dignified.*

*So glad he went back to Texas to marry you to become my special friend.*

*Even though we didn't keep in touch for the past 58 years. except with a Christmas card now and then, I sure was happy to see ya'll in 2012. I recognized his silly grin and big ears.*

*Ya'll will always be special in my memories and my heart.*

*Love and prayers to all.*

*Betty McNeil*

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**Betty L McNeil** - May 05, 2020 at 03:00 AM

CS

*Thank you for posting this, Betty! I've heard stories of those ND years! I will share this post with my mom. Thanks, Christy Smith (Lynn & Sallie's daughter)*

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**Christy Smith** - May 07, 2020 at 08:04 PM

“ I went in search of a VariEze last fall and came across N40LC, sitting in a hangar in the Chicago area. I went to inspect it. It had not flown for several years and the registration showed the name "Coltharp S L" as the manufacturer. My hope was to talk with the original builder to gain as much information as possible on the construction.

*After some research, I found that it had changed hands twice within a year since Lynn had sold it. The 2nd owner had planned to strip it down for parts and scrap it. Fortunately, he decided to resell it to a guy in the Chicago area who repainted it and upgraded the interior. It hasn't flown since Lynn's last flight in it about 10 years ago.*

*I found Lynn's address and sent him a letter last November. Within a few days, I received a phone call from him. He was hard to hear, but we talked for at least an hour and he gave me all the confidence I needed to know that this was a quality-built airplane.*

*I excitedly purchased N40LC in December. Although my only interaction with Lynn was that one phone call, we made a nice connection through excitement for aviation. I was lucky enough to get his build logs, records, and pictures with the VariEze. Lynn is in many of the pictures working hard on the plane. I have connected with Christy and she has sent me additional items related to the plane.*

*We have made a few minor changes to the VariEze it and will have it back in the air this summer. N40LC will fly again! We will treat his creation well and let everyone know about the guy who built it.*

*Rest in peace Lynn, and prayers to his family.*



**Brian McKinney** - May 02, 2020 at 01:31 PM

CS

*Thank you, Brian! I didn't know the plane was about to be sold for scraps. I'm so glad you saved it! Christy*

**Christy smith** - May 04, 2020 at 10:19 PM

SJ

“ *Susan And Ron Julian lit a candle in memory of Sherrod Lynn Coltharp*



**Susan and Ron Julian** - April 30, 2020 at 10:25 AM

CS

*Thank you, Susan & Ron!*

*Christy*

**christy smith** - May 02, 2020 at 09:13 PM

CB

“ *2 files added to the album Airplanes*



**Charles Brown** - April 29, 2020 at 10:13 PM

RL

*As a former Glider and fixed wing pilot, while stationed in Germany, I'm sorry Your Dad and I never met, I' sure you had many great memories, with your Dad. Again condolences and you can rest assured, he and you Mom are flying the universe now .*

**Ross LeCompte** - May 02, 2020 at 02:16 PM

HS

“ Sally and Christy, I am so sorry for the loss of your husband and father. My heart breaks for you and the loss you are going through. I hope you know that your church family is by your side during this time of sorrow. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Where lives pass, memories carry on. I hope you can find peace remembering the good times you have shared as a family.



*With deepest sympathy and caring thoughts,  
Heidi Stark*

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**Heidi Stark** - April 29, 2020 at 07:41 PM

CS

*Thank you, Heidi. We appreciate it! Sallie, Richard, and Christy & family*

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**christy smith** - May 02, 2020 at 09:15 PM

SB

“ Lynn, Sallie always called him Sherrod, which was confusing when we first met. When I first met them and didn't know his name other than Lynn, I wondered if Sallie had two men in her life? I actually asked her about this and she laughed. Lynn was a kind sincere man, true friend with a quick wit and a funny laugh. He had a passion for flying and the airplanes he built, a pilots pilot. Lots of fun flights to fly-ins and times of hangar "lying and flying,"sharing flying stories. Lynn is no longer grounded, his last flight he took off and touched the face of God, soaring into eternal flight. God bless Christi, Richard and their families. Thanks Lynn for your friendship.

*Shirley Brown*

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**Shirley Brown** - April 29, 2020 at 03:27 PM



*Thank you, Shirley, for posting these great memories! We appreciate it and hope you all are doing well! Christy*

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**christy smith** - May 02, 2020 at 09:16 PM

CB

“ I first met Lynn Coltharp in 1971. We were working with John Bailey at Senturion Sciences in Tulsa. Lynn was an amazing electronics man and became a warm friend.

We had some grand adventures white water canoeing rivers in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas. Later I will share a few of those.

Another employee at Senturion was Jim Cranford, who was aptly named by Coltharp as "Cranky". He ran the playback center and could be "cranky" if things weren't right.

Cranky bought a 1955 Piper Tri Pacer airplane in which he would learn to fly. Coltharp thought that such a good idea he made a deal with Cranky to rent the airplane so he could also learn to fly. I thought it such a good idea I joined the "club", too. In this way Lynn and I helped pay for Cranky's airplane but we got hours and hours of pleasure in the trade. We flew from Harvey Young Airport in northeast Tulsa. More stories from there.

Learning to fly opened the aviation world for Coltharp and ultimately led to multiple trips to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the Experimental Aircraft Association (the EAA) fly-in, the building of his beautiful Vari-Eze airplane, acquiring his Airframe and Powerplant (A&E) certification, also the Mooney airplane he bought and loved. He was president of the local EAA chapter and a generous contributor of his time and talent to that group I was told.

All of this in addition to his work nationwide for Amoco from where he retired.

Unfortunately my career moved me away from Tulsa, Lynn and Sallie moved to Owasso where he could park his airplane "at the house". We would only see each other rarely after that, but we always picked up our friendship without dropping a stitch.

I will miss his laugh, the twinkle in his eye when he would catch you a little off center, and maybe most of all his gentle way.

Rest easy my friend. Your work here is done. I hope to see you a little later.

Charles A. "Charlie" Brown

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Charles Brown - April 29, 2020 at 11:33 AM

CS

*Thank you for sharing these wonderful and fun memories, Charlie! We really appreciate it! Makes us smile and brings joy to our hearts! ❤️*  
Christy

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**Christy Smith** - April 29, 2020 at 04:23 PM

RC

*Thanks, Charlie. I will definitely miss that "twinkle."*

*Richard Coltharp*

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**Richard Coltharp** - May 05, 2020 at 11:14 PM

CB

*“ Sally, Richard & Christy. John Bailey called this morning with the news.  
Shirley and I are sorry for your loss and hope the rest of this journey to be easier.  
Due to the virus precautions we won't be able to see you this week.  
We are so sorry.  
Our plans are to share some life stories/memories here of a truly unique and precious friend and man.  
Charlie & Shirley Brown, Edmond*

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**Charles Brown** - April 29, 2020 at 10:37 AM

CS

*Thank you so much, Charlie!*

*Christy*

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**Christy Smith** - April 29, 2020 at 04:19 PM

LT

“ *Sally & Christy-*  
*We are saddened by your loss of Lynn.*  
*Sending prayers, with our sympathies & love-*  
*Wes & Lynette Tramell*

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**Lynette Tramell** - April 29, 2020 at 08:08 AM