



## Zane W. Mitchell Jr.

October 24, 1961 - April 27, 2024

Zane Windsor Mitchell, Jr., age 62, of Evansville, passed away at his home on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Zane was born on October 24, 1961 in Columbus, Ohio to Zane Windsor Mitchell, Sr. and Dolores Christine (Vargo) Mitchell. Zane was graduate of the United States Air Force Academy; a decorated pilot and a retired Colonel in the Air Force. While serving in the Air Force, Zane earned the Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Air Medal. Zane also earned his Masters and PhD from Virginia Tech University. He served as the Dean and Professor of Engineering at Pott College of Science at the University of Southern Indiana; he was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society of Engineering Education.

Zane was an avid cyclist; participated and competed in many bicycle races and routinely would ride his bike over 100 miles in a day.

Surviving Zane are his wife of 30 years, Robyn Krutchkoff; two sons, Keith Mitchell and Bryan Mitchell; parents, Zane W. Sr. and Dolores Mitchell and his brother and sister-in-law, Greg and Lisa Mitchell.

Funeral services for Zane will be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 8, 2024

at Pierre Funeral Home, Rev. Terry Gamblin officiating. Burial will take place in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Friends may visit with the family from 3:00 PM until service time on Wednesday at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Vanderburgh County Humane Society, 400 Milner Industrial Drive, Evansville, Indiana 47710.

Condolences may be made online at [www.pierrefuneralhome.com](http://www.pierrefuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 8. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home  
2601 West Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN 47712  
(812) 423-6471  
info@pierrefuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

MAY 8. 6:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home  
2601 West Franklin Street  
Evansville, IN 47712  
(812) 423-6471  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Zane W. Mitchell Jr.*



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**Pierre Funeral Home** - May 08, 2024 at 05:24 PM

JC

*Zane and me went through C-130 upgrade school in Little Rock together. I'm saddened that he's dead. We had some good times together.*

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**James Cerny** - May 01, 2025 at 09:43 PM

CD

“ Dear Robyn,

*Please accept my belated but deepest condolences for Zane’s passing. I recently came across this news while browsing the internet, and it deeply saddened me. Although we were classmates at the “Zoo,” our paths truly crossed when we flew Compass Call together at Davis-Monthan AFB. Zane was not only a good friend, but also an outstanding co-worker at the Current Ops vault, and an excellent pilot.*

*Afterward, we parted ways for our respective career-broadening tours, and I still find it hard to believe he decided to fly B-52s. Our paths crossed again when we both taught at the Academy. I must have arrived earlier that summer, because he stayed with me for a couple of days until he found his own place. I still chuckle at the memory of him towing his prized orange (or perhaps red) Corvette through my unpaved steep driveway in Monument, CO, eventually parking it in a field behind the house.*

*The last time we reminisced, he mentioned that we could have been neighbors, if he had accepted a job at UT Tyler. That would have been a real treat. I will miss him terribly.*

*Please extend my regards to your boys. He was so proud of them.*

*Sincerely,  
Carlo Demandante*

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**Carlo Demandante** - March 12, 2025 at 01:01 AM

CH

“ *I just heard about Dr. Mitchells passing. He was a wonderful man and an incredible professor. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Christopher Huber** - January 09, 2025 at 08:39 AM

ES

“ *Very sorry for your loss. Zane was a great boss and a great guy. I wish I could have come to the visitation to say this in person*

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**Eric Sprouls** - May 08, 2024 at 04:02 PM

BG

“ *Dear Robyn and family,*

*I just received news of Zane's passing. I am somewhat speechless. Zane and I were classmates and squadron mates at the Academy and also served on the faculty of the Academy together later in our careers. He was a terrific friend during our first two years at the Zoo and we were happy to find each other back at the Academy during our faculty tours. I know his loss is profound for you and the entire Mitchell family. It is also a deep loss for those who he touched throughout his professional life. My deepest condolences to you during this sad time. Zane left a legacy for all who knew him that will long endure.*

*Brad Gutierrez*

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**Brad Gutierrez** - May 06, 2024 at 06:15 PM

PS

*I flew with Zane over 30 years ago in the B-52 for a couple of years. He was a great pilot as well as super nice guy and friend. He was also one of the smartest guys I knew. Not surprised he went on to be the head of engineering at USI. He has left us way too soon, but will be missed and remembered for the rest of our lives.*

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**Paul Schechter** - May 08, 2024 at 01:37 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Zane W. Mitchell Jr..



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May 04, 2024 at 07:53 PM



“ The Mitchell Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Zane W. Mitchell Jr..

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**The Mitchell Family** - May 03, 2024 at 02:03 PM



“ The Mitchell Family purchased the Sacred Duty S pray for the family of Zane W. Mitchell Jr..



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**The Mitchell Family** - May 03, 2024 at 02:03 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Zane while we were on faculty at the US Air Force Academy. He was an exceptional professor, leader and Air Force Officer. He will be missed by so many that were impacted by his intellect, experience and kindness. Col (ret) John Christ, Retired Permanent Professor and Department Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineer, USAF Academy

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**John Christ** - May 01, 2024 at 08:12 PM

MB

“ I met Zane in Summer 2019 at the Harvard Management and Leadership in Education two-week institute. Several of us were in a small group with Zane, a group so lovely and supportive that we meet monthly to this day. Zane was such a bright light, so kind and compassionate, so smart and inquisitive, so energetic and insightful. In our monthly Zoom meetings, I always looked forward to what Zane would have to say and which of the many cats would make an appearance. My deepest condolences go to his wife and sons, as well as the many family members, friends, and colleagues. I especially thank him and his family for their deep service to our country.  
Maggie Baker



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**Maggie Baker** - May 01, 2024 at 03:20 PM

SW

“ Our sincere heartfelt condolences.  
Suzan and Randy Williams

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**Suzan Williams** - May 01, 2024 at 10:30 AM

RH

“ I am both saddened by the loss of Zane in the world and inspired knowing how many people are better by simply having known him. He lives on in all those who came in contact with him during his Air Force Career, in his time as a professor, and simply through moments of laughter in his personal life. I remember him as a man of integrity, kindness, and respect. Though it has been more years than I care to admit since Zane and I last saw each other, I remember him as one of the good guys and someone that helped people become better versions of themselves. While I mourn his loss, I also celebrate the legacy he leaves with all that knew him. With the deepest of respect for the magnitude of your loss, may you find comfort in the knowledge that he remains alive in people that knew him. Blessings, Russell Huard

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**Russell Huard** - April 30, 2024 at 07:49 PM

LO

“ My path crossed many times with Zane during my tenure on Sen. Richard Lugar’s staff. People may be surprised to learn that during his years as a USAF officer, Zane was responsible for construction of facilities in Russia to destroy Soviet-era chemical weapons under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CRT) program. Zane later met one-on-one with Senator Lugar during an Evansville visit and shared his remarkable personal experiences of this highly unique and important assignment. I am deeply appreciative of Zane’s service to the University and the world. A truly remarkable man.

Larry Ordner  
Whiteland, Indiana

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**Larry Ordner** - April 30, 2024 at 07:45 PM

EW

“ Zane Mitchell was a solid colleague, dedicated to the University and the principles and values of higher education. He has earned a large share of the credit for the advancement and growth of his college. I will always remember his readiness to be of help to our program whenever I called for a favor. When we talk about the high quality of faculty at USI, Zane is an appropriate starting point for that discussion.

*Elliot Wasserman, Emeritus Professor of Theatre*

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**Elliot Wasserman** - April 30, 2024 at 02:42 PM

GI

“ I have always had the upmost respect for Zane while he worked in the College of Business as well as Pott College Science, Engineering and Education.  
Zane was always calm and a true professional at USI, yet his smile and sparkle I will remember too. RIP Zane.

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**Gigie** - April 30, 2024 at 02:37 PM

CB

“ Zane worked for our grocery store in Carmichaels in his teenage years. For all of my family to remember him after all these years is proof of the wonderful person he was. May your sorrows be lifted by knowing he was not forgotten.  
Mrs John Brodak, Carmichaels, PA

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**Coral Brodak** - April 30, 2024 at 01:51 PM

JD

“ Dr. Mitchell was an amazing person and will truly be missed by the USI community. My condolences go out to his family.

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**Jody Delp** - April 30, 2024 at 01:42 PM

LR

“ I always enjoyed seeing and talking with Zane at the USI health Center. He will be missed. Lots of prayers to his family. Lori, LPN

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**Laura Reynolds-Thomas** - April 30, 2024 at 09:03 AM

CF

“ Zane was such a kind man. He always greeted me with a smile and hello whenever we saw each other at USI. He will be missed by so many people. My sincere condolences.

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**Cyd Fithian** - April 29, 2024 at 07:46 PM

JW

“ It was such a pleasure to work for Zane at USI. I never saw him without his gentle smile. He was known to walk through the third floor just to say hello and see how everyone was doing on occasion, even though his office was on the first floor. Heaven is a better place today. I offer sincere condolences to his family. A person like Zane will certainly leave a huge, unfillable hole. My prayers are with you.

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**Jalane Weber** - April 29, 2024 at 05:00 PM