

Remembering Sidney “Sid” M. Yahn 1926-2017

Sid Yahn was born in Iowa. At an early age, he developed an interest in aviation, building and flying model planes. In 1943, he became a pilot soloing in a Piper Cub. Later that year he enlisted in the USAAF as an aviation cadet. In 1947 he transitioned to the USAF. While in the air force, on April 25, 1950, he was forced to bail out of a F-51D following an engine fire northwest of Nellis AFB. In 2008, at Sid’s request, friends found the wreckage of his F-51D and took him to the crash site.

Sid volunteered to serve in the Korean conflict where he completed one 125 combat missions flying the Lockheed F-80. Returning from Korea he served as an instructor pilot in the Lockheed T-33 before being assigned as an air attaché to the Chinese Nationalist Air Force. Following his tour of duty on Taiwan, Sid joined the Strategic Air Command where he served with distinction, flying the Boeing KC-135 during the Vietnam War.

After 31 years of service, Lt. Col. Sidney M. Yahn retired from the air force. In 1974, he went to work for the Northrop Corp. where he became an international sales representative promoting the F-5E/F fighter aircraft. During this period, he continued to fly sailplanes, entering cross-country races, and racking up kudos in *Soaring Magazine*.

Sid was an esteemed member of the Red Barons and the Old Bold Pilots Assoc. of Huntington Beach. He was also a member of the American Aviation Historical Society where he made numerous contributions to the *AAHS Journal*.

Sid Yahn was 91 when he died on April 12, 2017. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and numerous friends,



Sid preparing to fly a Chinese AF F-84G at Tainan AB during his time as an air attaché to the Chinese Nationalist Air Force . Note the armed guard.

and admirers. Sidney M. Yahn exemplified the finest attributes of an officer and a gentleman. He asked to be remembered as “a fighter pilot, nothing more, nothing less”.

Respectfully,
G. Pat Macha
AAHS Member

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