



Donald Jay Cates

Illinois - Donald Jay Cates, 56, died suddenly and unexpectedly, Friday, March 30, 2012.

He was born Feb. 17, 1956, in Mountain View, Mo., the son of Donald G. Cates and the late Barbara Cates. Don served as the COB on the **USS**

Boston SSN-703 in 1991 and retired as a master chief from the Navy after 20 years of honorable service and worked at Davis Standard in Pawcatuck, after he retired.

Don was a flight instructor for the Scott Air Force Base Aero Club and a volunteer pilot for Wings of Hope and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. A philanthropist at heart, his passion for aviation was endless and he thoroughly enjoyed sharing his love of flying. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with his family. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, Vikki; his first wife, Deborah Cates; son, William Cates; daughter, Brenda (Cates) Wagner; sisters and their husbands, Kay and Bob Channell, Ronnie and Andy Anderson, Rene and Patrick Campbell, Juanita and Shawn Swift, and Lisa and Faouzi Kausmouy; brother and his wife, Lennie and Rene Dixon; grandchildren, Thomas, Kaitlin, Michael, and Ryan Wagner, Madelyn and Allyson Cates; and many nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was predeceased by a son, Donald Jay Cates Jr.; and his mother, Barbara Cates.