



Alvan S. Moder

December 21, 1943 - March 23, 2026

COLUMBIA – Alvan S. Moder, 82, known to many as Al, passed away on Monday, March 23, 2026. His life was defined by vigor, curiosity, and a deep appreciation for physical activity, working with his hands, and time spent with family and close friends.

Al grew up in rural northern New Jersey, where he developed a lifelong love of flying and distinguished himself as a wrestler in high school. He attended Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he served as co-captain of the wrestling team and competed on the lacrosse team, exemplifying his life of service, leadership and a dedication to athletic pursuits.

Al followed his passion for aviation in the United States Navy, earning his wings as a naval aviator in 1968. He served on active duty until 1971, when he and his wife, Evelyn Moder, settled in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. There they raised their family and made their home for the next 50 years. After leaving active duty, Al continued his career in aviation, in the Naval Reserve, and primarily as a pilot and Aeronautics Inspector for the Rhode Island Airport Corporation.

While in his role as Aeronautics Inspector, Al was recognized for extraordinary aircraft piloting in 2003, when he experienced total engine failure upon takeoff in a small, fixed wing aircraft at eight hundred feet. He and his co-pilot acted

calmly and decisively to execute emergency procedures and safely land the aircraft intact on a small beach in Westerly, RI.

Outside of his professional life, Al was well known for his enthusiasm for mountain biking and for maintaining an active, outdoor-oriented lifestyle. He will be remembered for his determination, love of adventure, his dry sense of humor, and the strong connections he built with those around him.

Al's presence will be deeply missed, but his legacy of dedication, energy, and love for family and friends will remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Evelyn (Voss) Moder of Columbia; his three children: Sarah (Kenneth) LeBlanc of North Kingstown, R.I., Eve Nightingale of Canton, Mass., and Col. John A. (Sherrie) Moder, USMC, of Williamsburg, Va.; a brother, Jonathan Moder of Glen Gardiner, N.J.; eight grandchildren: Hannah Hendricks, Alice LeBlanc, Claire LeBlanc, Calvin LeBlanc, Libby Nightingale, Sally Nightingale, Ava Moder and Jack Moder; and one great-grandson, Amari Hendricks.

He is predeceased by a sister, Marguerite Shale.

There are no public calling hours. The family will have a memorial service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at a later date. Capt. Moder will be interred at the Rhode Island Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Exeter, R.I.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Capt. Moder may be made to the American Parkinson Disease Association, P.O. Box 61420, Staten Island, NY 10306, or online at support.adaparkinson.org.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
in Colebrook.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ With deep sympathy to the Moder family from the D’Espinosa family. Fair Winds and Following Seas Al. It was a privilege working with you @ PVD.

Jay D’Espinosa - April 14 at 12:47 PM

AC

“ Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Amy Conkelton - April 04 at 09:18 PM

JJ

Al was a good friend that I deeply cared for. I met him through our connection to our wonderful standard poodle dogs in Colebrook NH. Shelley and I shared many wonderful times and memories with he and Evie that we will cherish forever. I will miss you Al.

Joel Jameson - April 06 at 03:15 PM

BS

“ Alvan (that is what us cousins always called him), was always my mentor. I am glad to have seen him up in his treasured NH home ("Cloud 9") a few years ago. Evie and family, we will be with you in spirit. "Alvan, set up another workshop so I can join you later, and then we can work on one of your projects". Bruce Sprague



Bruce Sprague - April 04 at 04:34 PM

BM

“ Evie and family, we are so glad our paths crossed up in the North Country and we became friends. We will always remember Al as a gentle, soft spoken, smiling man despite the challenges life gave him. We are sending our deepest sympathy to all of you. Brooke & Kim Mitchell

Brooke & Kim Mitchell - April 04 at 03:25 PM

LI

“ Evie and family, We're so saddened to learn of your Al's passing. May your years of happiness and good memories be a comfort to all of you.

Blessings, Joe & Linda Adamonis

Linda - April 03 at 07:49 PM

PW

“ *Al was a wonderful human and a joy to be around. We always enjoyed time spent with him. We will cherish our memories of those times. Sending our love and heartfelt sympathies to you, Evie, and your family.*

Scott and Pat Wiggett

Pat Wiggett - March 30 at 06:59 AM



“ *Dear Evie and family, I am sending my love to your wonderful family! So sorry for your loss! Getting to know you has been a pleasure! Your in my heart!*



Janet Hart - March 29 at 11:55 AM

CF

“ *Dear Evie - I am so sorry for your loss. Al will always be remembered for being a wonderful person. May all your beautiful memories help guide you through this difficult time. I am thinking of you.*

Carolyn Foss - March 28 at 11:06 AM

LK

“ *We were sorry to learn of Al's passing. We enjoyed spending time with him and will miss his friendly, calm spirit. Condolences to Evie and his family. May he rest in peace,*

Patty and Les Klinefelter

Leslie Klinefelter - March 28 at 09:49 AM