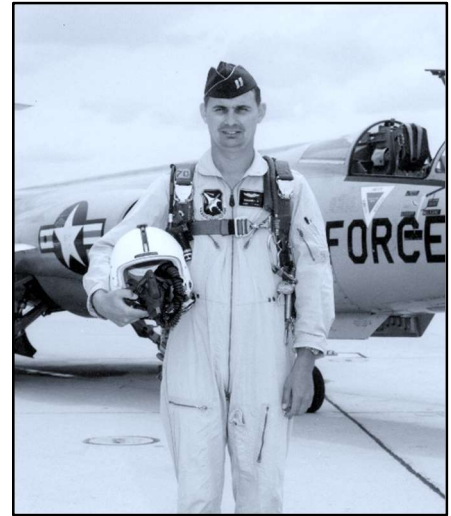




**The Society** was saddened to learn of the “Last Flight” of Lt Col Leo G. Janssens, USAF (Ret) (F) on 19 February 2023. He was 85 years old.

**Leo was born** on 19 July 1937 in Monroe, Michigan on the family farm. He attended a one room schoolhouse. He and his brother Richard worked in the farm fields to earn money to buy a car during WWII. Their father, Gus bought the neighbors 1928 Chevrolet so they could drive themselves to school. He graduated from Monroe Catholic Central High School in 1954. He completed the ROTC program and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1959 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He then embarked on a 22-year career in the Air Force. He also earned a master’s degree in engineering management in 1973 from the University of Dayton.



**During his USAF career** Leo graduated from the USAF Test Pilot School in 1969. He was awarded 12 Medals and Ribbons including the Air Force Commendation Medal and Ribbon. He served in Vietnam and flew 500 combat hours and 605 combat missions in C-123 Provider aircraft.

**Leo retired** from the Air Force as a Flight Test Squadron Commander at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH in 1980. From 1980-1988 he was a Civil Service Executive with the Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense. He later worked as an independent FAA Designated Engineering Representative (DER) and international Aviation Safety Consultant and performed over 900 experimental spins in four different types of experimental aircraft and flew eight flights for FAA vibration and flutter certification. Leo flew over 100 hours of icing tests in single engine aircraft during moderate to heavy icing conditions resulting in FAA certification of the de-icing system.

**During his fifty plus years** as a pilot Leo flew over 15,000 hours in 125 different types of aircraft ranging from gliders to the C-5. He has also taught numerous students to fly as a certified instructor. He owned and regularly flew his Meyers “Little Toot” open cockpit homebuilt experimental biplane.

**In 1995 the SETP** Board of Directors unanimously endorsed Mr. Janssens, in a letter to President Clinton, to be appointed to the National Transportation Safety Board.

**Leo also enjoyed sports cars**, his wave runner and boats. He taught his children and numerous people how to water ski and snow ski. He enjoyed traveling back to Monroe, MI through the years to spend time with family and attend University of Michigan Football games.

**Leo is survived by his wife**, Beverly, daughter, Joy (Chris) Georgakas of Prescott, AZ, son John (Brigitte) of Perrysburg, OH. Brothers Richard (Mary Jane) Monroe, MI, Gus (Patricia) Monroe, MI, Jerry (Diane) of Monroe, MI and sister, Jan (Thomas) Chulski of Green Valley, AZ. Grandchildren Caitlin Coffey, Jennifer Georgakas, Griffin Janssens & Melissa (Trent) Burns who are both pilots. He taught Melissa to fly, and she became an aerobatic champion. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and many step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be considered to [Marion County FL Hospice](#) and/or [USAF Museum Dayton, OH](#) in the name of Lt Col Leo G. Janssens USAF.