

Hagan Edward Gibbs Jr. Obituary

Hagan Edward Gibbs Jr., 91, passed away on January 19, 2026, in Springfield, Missouri. Born on September 28, 1934, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Hagan lived a life marked by service, dedication, and an unmistakable sense of humor that left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Hagan began his journey in the U.S. Naval Reserves before joining the U.S. Air Force, where he developed a deep love for aviation that would shape much of his professional life. After completing his military service, he became a police officer in Kansas City, Missouri. He served in some of the city's most challenging neighborhoods and faced formidable situations—including encounters with organized crime—with courage and integrity.

Driven by his passion for flight and air traffic systems, Hagan transitioned into a career with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). While working at the Waterloo Air Traffic Control Tower, he pursued higher education and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Northern Iowa—racing to graduate before his son Bob and proudly beating him to the finish line. His commitment to aviation culminated in his role as an air traffic controller supervisor. Over the course of 33 years with the FAA, Hagan became known for his leadership and expertise before retiring in 1994.

Hagan was deeply committed to community service throughout his life. He served as president of Local NARFE Chapter 11 and was an active volunteer ambassador at Dickerson Park Zoo. He also contributed his time to Wonders of Wildlife when it first opened. A proud Master Mason with a 32-degree Scottish Rite distinction, Hagan joined the Springfield Shriners in December 2001.

He cherished time spent with family above all else. Hagan is survived by his beloved wife Pamela Gibbs; his brother Phillip Gibbs and wife Tara; son Robert Gibbs and Terrie Richardson; daughters Terri Bowers and husband Anthony, and Kim Harrigan and husband Rick. He was a devoted grandfather to Jason, Krystina, Bobby, Erika, Alexander, Jordan, Cameron, and Gailyn; and great-grandfather to Brooke, Julian, Adrian, Joella, Jude, and Noa.

He was preceded in death by his father Hagan Gibbs Sr., mother Florence Gibbs (Bearden), sister Patsy Hopkins, and daughter Kellie Gibbs.

Outside of work and service commitments, Hagan found joy in simple pleasures—playing pool or horseshoes with friends or heading out to Table Rock Lake on his boat. The lake was his sanctuary—a place where he could unwind with Pam by his side. One memorable day while cruising to the lake, AC/DC's "Thunderstruck" came on the radio. From that moment forward it became their unofficial theme song—blaring every time they returned to their favorite retreat.

Known for always rising to meet any challenge head-on—and often with a mischievous grin—Hagan had a warped sense of humor that endeared him to those around him. Even after passing on, he found ways to make his presence known: shortly after his death an unexpected alarm went off at home—a prank only Hagan could have orchestrated from beyond.

Fiercely protective of those he loved and unwaveringly loyal to family and friends alike, Hagan leaves behind a legacy defined by strength of character and spirited devotion.

May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him—and may "Thunderstruck" always echo across Table Rock Lake in tribute to a life well lived.