

# New England Combat News

VOLUME 32 NUMBER 1      JUNE 2020  
THE CONTROL LINE COMBAT NEWSLETTER OF NEW ENGLAND



*Now Celebrating our 32nd year of Publication*



Will Rogers  
December 22, 1943 ~ April 27, 2020  
This issue is dedicated to his memory

# Will F. Rogers

December 22, 1943 ~ April 27, 2020

Will F. Rogers, 76, of East Hartford, passed away on Monday, April 27, 2020 at Hartford Hospital after a battle with heart disease. He was the husband of the late Dorothy (Ward) Rogers, who predeceased him in 1992.

Born in Jonesboro, Louisiana on December 22, 1943, he was the son of the late Emmett and Bessie Mae (Rose) Rogers. Raised and educated in Louisiana, he remained proud of his roots and maintained his Southern accent despite his longtime residence in the Northeast. Will served his country in the US Navy, receiving an honorable discharge in 1968. He was highly educated engineer, working for Pratt and Whitney and later for Stanadyne, from where he retired. A longtime resident of East Hartford, he was an animal lover, a good friend and dependable neighbor, who will be remembered for his generosity, sense of humor and mischievous personality.

He leaves his dear friend, Lois Schmidt of Plainville, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Peggy McDaniel.

Will may be remembered with contributions to American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492.

Honoring his wishes, his life will be celebrated privately.

---

## Services

You can still show your support by sending flowers directly to the family, or by planting a memorial tree in the memory of Will F. Rogers  
Visit our [Tribute Store](#)



Will was, in my opinion, the best combat pilot to ever call New England his home. He was the 1969 National Combat Champion. During those years entries were measured in the hundreds and the event was single elimination.

In addition to being an excellent pilot he was an excellent person. Will was humble and unassuming yet confident and determined. He was very generous with his time and knowledge. Will was that rare competitor who genuinely wanted his fellow competitors to succeed. He never lost his Southern charm, politeness or values that were no doubt rooted in his Louisiana upbringing. Will was the consummate “Southern Gentleman”.

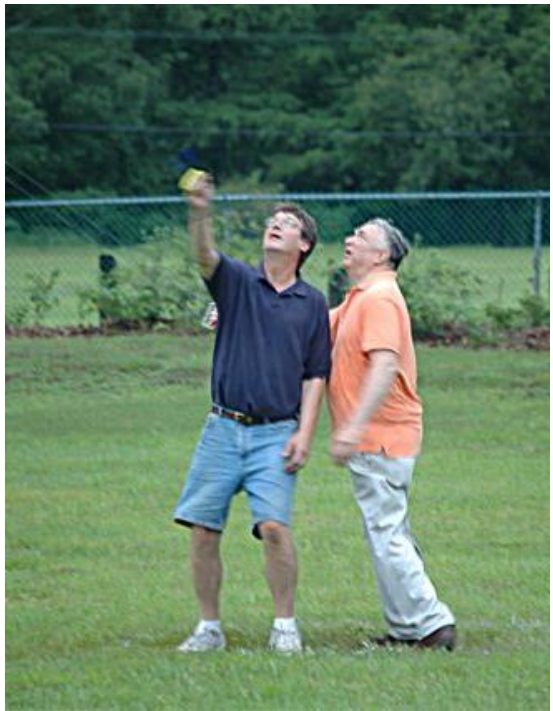
I am proud to call him my friend and I will miss him dearly.



Will and Dave Parizo get Will's "White Rabbit" design ready for action at the 2000 Connecticut Ringer Invitational in Stonington, Connecticut.



Will never had a bad word for anyone but he did have mischievous side. At the 1999 Central Mass Championship the camera caught he and Gerry Pompeii pretending to steal your editor's airplane.



Will in action clockwise with  
Mark Rudner, Lloyd Seymour, Conrad Wondolowki and Neil Simpson (2004, 2005 and 2006 seasons)



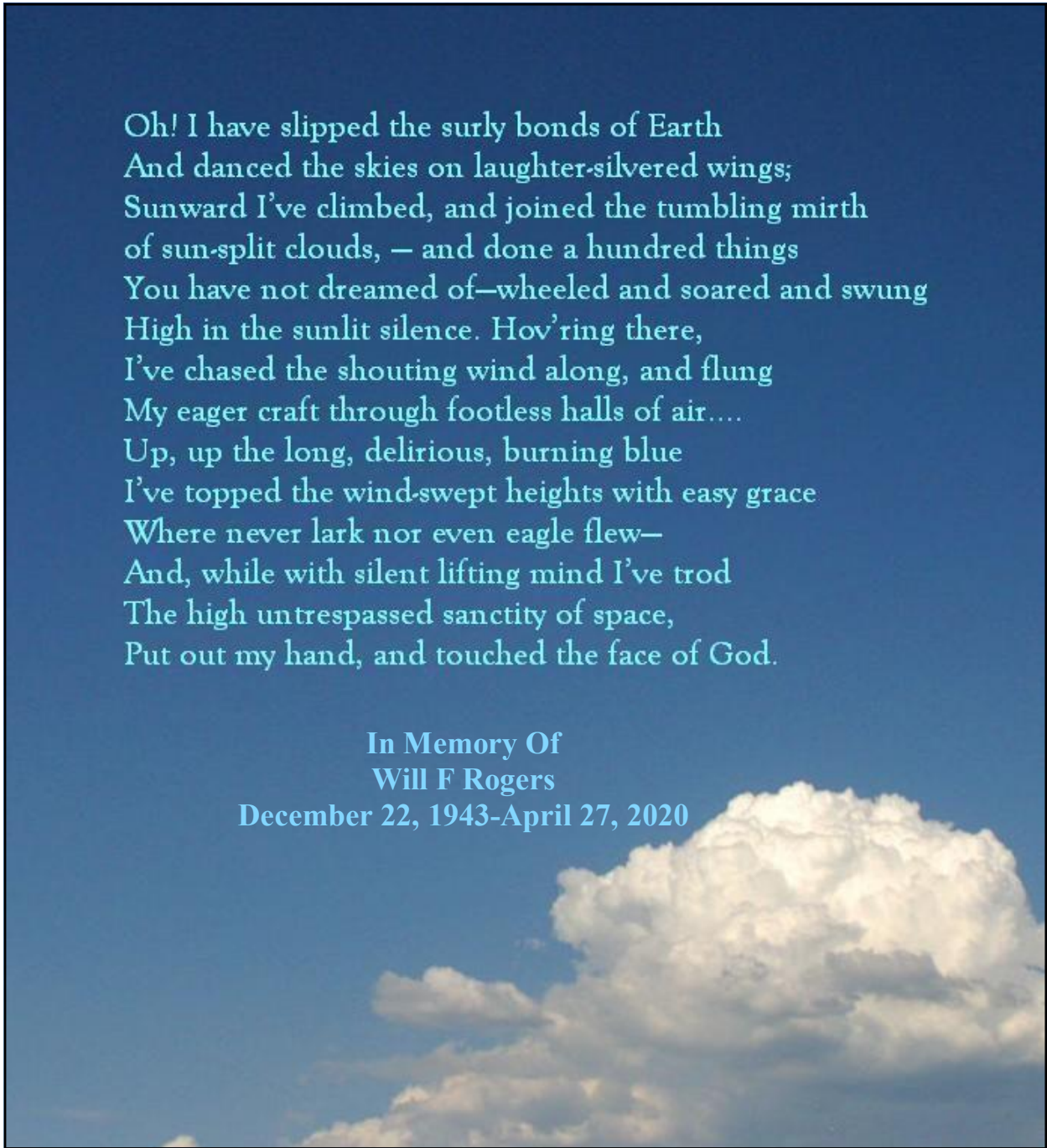
Will with Neil and Glenn Simpson-2005 contest-Colchester, Connecticut



Will and Ken Hargeaves are ready to launch Will 's entry  
Salmon River State Forest-2006 contest

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air....  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark nor even eagle flew—  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

In Memory Of  
Will F Rogers  
December 22, 1943-April 27, 2020



# Proposed 2020 Schedule

Updated 5-20-20

This is tentative, several of the permissions are not totally in place  
There may well be changes and adjustments.

16-May Saturday	107 <sup>th</sup> RC Flyers Spring Championships	GX	<b>CANCELED</b>
20-Jun Saturday	GX Shootout <b>(NOW SATURDAT JUNE 20TH)</b>	GX	Saugus, MA
11-16 July	Combat AMA Nationals		Muncie, Indiana
9-Aug Sunday	Central Mass Championships	GX	E. Brookfield, MA
23-Aug Sunday	Silver Lake Shootout	GX	Kingston, MA
13-Sep Sunday	Eastern Mass Invitational	F2D	location TBD
27-Sep Sunday	Fall Finale Combat Tournament	GX	location TBD
11-Oct Sunday	Eastern Mass Championship	F2D	location TBD
24-Oct Saturday	107 <sup>th</sup> RC Flyers Fall Championship	GX	Saugus, MA
7-Nov Saturday	Turkey Day Shootout	GX	Saugus, MA

Note: The contests marked "location TBD" are reasonably definite date wise  
They will be at one of three possible locations

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**THE JUNE 21ST CONTEST IS MOVED TO**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 20TH**