



William Breen

November 21, 1927 - December 14, 2023

William Robert Breen, of Quinton, Oklahoma died Thursday December 14th, aged 96. Bill was born in Paterson, New Jersey, November 21st 1927. He was an aviation enthusiast from an early age. He believed he caught the "aviation bug" while his mother, Katherine Breen, attended the Charles Lindbergh ticker tape parade in NYC June 1927, while pregnant with baby Bill.

Bill's first job was washing airplanes, becoming a "line boy" at the Teterboro Airport where he got a mechanics license. He grew up in Weehawken New Jersey and graduated from Weehawken High School in 1945.

He enlisted in the US Navy at 17 1/2 yrs and served 18 months in WW II. He was serving in the NJ Air National Guard and called into active service where he became a B-29 Flight engineer during the Korean War.

After his service to our country, he was employed by Trans World Airlines (TWA) as a flight engineer and copilot for 17 years. He moved to corporate aviation with Beech Aircraft and was a technical advisor for the King Air in Wichita. British Aerospace later hired him as the first US born employee, a Technical Representative for the Hawker 125, a popular business jet in the 1980's and 90's.

He met his wife, LuWanda (Dalton) Breen while attending Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa in 1953 and was married in Tulsa later that year. They had 4 children. Bill was the son-in-law of Guy and Glorene Dalton, longtime residents of Quinton, OK.

Bill retired at age 67. He obtained his real estate license and helped his son, Bill Breen Jr with his real estate company in Lake Lure, NC.

After retirement, he and LuWanda moved to her parents' family farm in Quinton after they passed, to care for her brother, Billy Ray. Bill enjoyed rural life and took pride in keeping his father in-law's antique tractor running for many years.

Bill Breen traveled extensively with his aviation profession and was appointed an FAA crash investigator, as he had a keen eye for details, knowledge of complex aviation systems and a sense of things that could go wrong. He took his last airplane ride weeks before his 90th birthday and often told family, the hours or time while flying, was God "turning back the clock".

He taught aviation ground school for a Boy Scout Troop in Overland Park, Kansas. His

compensation was the use of a J3 Piper Cub, which he flew all over Kansas, taking friends and family for rides. He was a member of a TWA pilot's flying club and he flew his young family on vacations where he was ever vigilant about how much weight the kids had gained over the holiday, forcing family members to leave luggage or ship it home. William Breen celebrated his 70th wedding anniversary with LuWanda and family on November 7th, 2023.

He is survived by his wife, LuWanda Dalton Breen, Quinton, his daughter Janet Gaume-Wakefield and husband Randy, of the home, daughter Linda Breen, Quinlan TX, daughter Gail Biedermann, Salt Lake City, UT, son William Robert Breen Jr., Bill's Creek, NC and wife Noelia. He is survived by 5 grandchildren, Whitney Fair, James Fair and wife Shannon, Liam Gaume-Wakefield, and Dalton Gaume-Wakefield and husband, Alex and step granddaughter, Holly Haley and husband Ian, and 3 great-grandchildren.

A private family service will be held in the coming New Year 2024. William will be interred in the family plot at Quinton Cemetery. He was an active member of the Disciples of Christ and Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family recommends a donation to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Tribute Wall

WJ

“ In 1974 my family was living in Augusta Kansas. My father working for Beachcraft in Wichita Kansas! My main hobbies where fast cars, alcohol and the combination of the 2!

I heard a song on the radio that year at age 16! The song was By Harry Chapin/ Cat's in the Cradle” When I first heard the song, I stepped back and started looking around to see if someone was spying on me! I could not beleave that someone could write a song that better described me and my fathers absent relationship! No matter how many times I play that song I still cannot hold back tears! I think I remember that Harry Chapin in the height of his carrer , died in a car wreck and left a young son! I think about all the missed moments when my father attended church by himself in Quinton Oklahoma! God Bless my father on this day 6/30/24!

William R. Breen Jr. - June 24, 2024 at 03:14 PM

“ I worked in Sinai Egypt from 1981-1985 part of the peace keeping effort of the Camp David Agreement. I had to kill time overseas to meet tax free status and rented a flat in Eilat Israel located on the Red Sea and Gulf of Aquaba overlooking Jordan to the East. I made a major mistake flying my parents into Ben Gurion instead of Cairo! My mother fell so deeply in love with Israel that Egypt was to much of a culture shock for her to absorb! I wish we had toured Egypt first! I could probably write a book about that vacation! I asked my Jewish girlfriend Ofira where we should take my parents to dinner for their first night in Israel. We had candlelight dinner at the Biblical port city of Joppa! Overnight in Tel Aviv I rented a car and took them to my flat in Eilat. We then headed back North hitting the Dead Sea , Masada, Ein Geddi, Jericho, Bethany, Bethlehem and Jerusalem! Swimming in the Dead Sea was a funny expence I will let my Mother tell! We used Tel Aviv and Jerusalem as a center Hub we road tripped Nortbound! I remember us stopping to eat Goilash in a Kabutz near Gaza we hit Askelon , Ashdod, Caesaria, Haifa, Valley of Magiddo, Sea of Galilee, Tiberius, Capernam, Mount of Beatitude's returning back to Jerusalem visiting Wailing Wall, Kasiminee, Mt of Olives, Kidron Valley, Via la Doris's,Dome of the rock. Staying at the Historical King David Hotel We latter took a bus thru Rafah boarder into Sinai crossing the Suez Canal into Africa and overnight in Cairo! In latter years my Dad exspressed how much he enjoyed that vacation! He spoke of a Spiritual presence that he felt in the Church of the Holy Seplechure! I to expenced that feeling that he shared several years latter! Lord I am convinced that he visited both Golden Gate in Old City Jerusalem. And also Heavens Golden Gate. Dad I know God has allowed you to now fly F-35 category speed. You are now officially on the “free time” that you spoke about durring your life! I Know God is using you as a “Soldier” for his work! I will forever cherish the vacation and especially Jerusalem and the Holy land! That part of the world changed a young and naieve 23 year old for ever! Thankyou God for giving me the greatest Dad on planet 🌍! William R. Breen Jr.

william R. Breen Jr. - May 29, 2024 at 09:32 AM