

WILLIAM ROBERT EVANS



Commander William R. Evans, USN (Ret.), suddenly and unexpectedly made his last landing on 24 October 2015, where he debarked at the Pearly Gates and was welcomed by St. Peter into the kingdom of Christ the Lord, only 60 days before his 81st birthday. "Bill," AKA "Tiger," was born and raised in Trenton, NJ. He was the only member of his class to have broken the sound barrier (as a passenger in an F9F-8T Cougar piloted by his older brother, George, a naval aviator) before graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1960. He followed in his brother's footsteps, proudly pinning his Wings on in Kingsville, TX, in December 1961 (Bill's son, Brian, a recently retired Marine aviator, flew the F-18 Hornet).

Bill's billets included VF-191, deployed off BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31), on which he earned the esteemed privilege of becoming a "Triple Centurion" (300 carrier landings, over 100 of which were at night) and saw combat over Vietnam. His service included flight instructor for VT-23 Training Command, Kingsville, TX, VFP-63, deployed on FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CV-42) as OinC of the VFP-63 PhotoDet, VF-124, operations officer of F8 Replacement Air Group, instructing in dissimilar air combat maneuvering, during which he flew the A-4E Mongoose at the Advanced Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun). In 1972, he flew an F8 Crusader to Kuwait for a demonstration air show. As a member of VF-213, he flew F-4 Phantoms off KITTY HAWK (CV-63) and AMERICA (CV-66). He also served as operations officer, NAS Kingsville and was on CincPac staff. He retired in December 1982, having flown more than 4,000 hours and having made more than 700 carrier landings. Bill's favorite aircraft was the F-8 (his auto plate was "F8DRYVR").

Upon retirement, he lived in La Jolla, CA, and Plano, TX.

Predeceased by his parents, George J. and Helen T. Evans, Bill is survived by his brothers, Robert (Anne) and George (Mary Jane); sister, Kathleen; his former wife, Janice Evans; daughter, Aileen Evans (Mark Boltz); son, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Evans, USMC (Ret.) (Jennifer Williams); and grandchildren, Madelyn and Jeremy Boltz.

His ashes will be interred in the Miramar National Cemetery, fittingly located at Tiger's favorite home plate, directly off of the departure end of the runway at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station.

January-February Shipmate