

James R. Yacobi - - A Life Lived to its Fullest

Last night (June 2, 2014), the good Lord decided that Jamie's time had come after two weeks of gradual decline. He was surrounded by family and was restful and comfortable.

We realized that some of Jamie's friends who have logged on to CaringBridge might not know of his full background. He was born on March 31, 1930 in Willoughby Spit, VA. His youth was dominated by family, sports, and working. He graduated from Catholic University where he played football, basketball, and baseball -- setting many school records. While there, he also met his first wife, Mary Patricia Whalan.

In 1953, he joined the Air Force to become a fighter pilot. He earned his Machbuster's card that same year and flew a blistering Mach 2.3 as early as 1957 (the year his eldest son Coby was born). He flew in the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and Fighter Air Command in Vietnam. He flew almost 50 sorties over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. His nickname was Jake the Snake and while he was generous to a fault, at the same time he could be harder than woodpecker lips on liars or bullies. He was a "River Rat" who was very active in POW/MIA and family scholarships for their children.

After retiring from the Pentagon in 1975, Jamie used his extensive experience in the cockpit to help invent and implement numerous devices to protect the lives of pilots and crews who came after him. As a result of this work, many think of Jamie as the Father of Life Support in the jet age Air Force.

More important than his career, Jamie helped raise his five kids, Coby, Carty, John, Christina and Beth. More recently, he met and married Jeanette Ferris and has lived happily in Hampton with Jeanette and their two beloved dogs, Ginger and Chui. He was a proud family man with seven brothers and sisters (Frank, Bebe, Laura Anne, Bucky, Jeanne, Buddy, and Cam), five children, and five grandchildren (Nikolas, Meriel, Richie, Jack, and Jamie). He was very active, very capable, and extraordinarily independent and proud right up until his stroke two weeks ago.

Services will be held locally at the end of this week or early next week - we will post details as soon as they are available. Jamie will be layed to rest at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jamieyacobi/journal/view/id/>

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