



Brian Power-Waters

December 19, 1922 - July 21, 2014

Brian Power-Waters, retired United States Air Force Major, commercial airline pilot, and author of several airline safety books, passed away July 21 at the Shore Medical Center in Chestertown.

The Centreville, MD, resident was 91.

Born in London, England, in 1922, to parents Alma Shelley (an artist, actress, and great, great grandniece of Shelley, the poet) and Pierce Power-Waters (a World War I Captain in the Royal Engineers), Brian's family followed their passion for the theater and settled in New York City when Brian was five years old.

Brian developed his love for flying at an early age, often riding his bicycle several miles to Roosevelt Field on Long Island and taking flying lessons at nearby Flushing Airport. He had his first solo flight at the age of 16 and within a year earned his pilot's license.

During World War II, Brian was unable to enroll in the US Air Force Aviation Cadet Program because he was not a US citizen. He went to Canada and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943, serving as a flight engineer on a Mark 5 Halifax. After the war, Brian became a US citizen and graduated from basic pilot training at Perrin Air Force Base in Sherman, TX. He served five

years of active duty and joined the reserves serving in the 104 Tactical Fighter Group in Westfield, MA. In 1954, Brian was hired by Mohawk Airlines which later consolidated into Allegheny Airlines, and then US Airways. Brian flew as Captain for this airline for 28 years.

Brian met flight attendant Kay Lawrence in 1956, and they were married later the same year. After years of flying commercial airplanes, Brian grew concerned with safety conditions in the airline industry. In 1972, he wrote his first book on airline safety, *Safety Last*. Over the next 35 years, he published six more books on air safety. These books reflected his continuing crusade to keep safe the airways he loved so much. After retirement from US Airways in 1982, Brian completed his certification for an aircraft mechanics license. He competed in national aerobatics contests in his Pitts S1S biplane. At the age of 78, Power-Waters received certification to fly ultra-light aircraft and hang gliders.

An avid sportsman, Brian earned world champion status benching 290 pounds at the age of 79 - a world record at the time. Brian competed in the Senior Olympics in track and field events. He medaled in over 150 competitions and qualified for the International Senior Olympics, in Sydney, Australia.

Brian is survived by his wife, Kay, of Centreville, MD; and four daughters, Lisette Brosan of Annapolis, MD, Laurette Bollinger of Bel Air, MD, Linette Tinelli of Grasonville, MD, and Lanette Power-Waters of Queenstown, MD; and nine grandchildren, Brian, Benjamin and Brayden Bollinger, Geoffrey, Alex and Lauren Tinelli, Connor and Devyn Brosan and Collette Wood.

A memorial service will be held 3:00 PM, Wednesday, August 6, 2014, at St. Christopher's Church, 1861 Harbor Drive, Chester, MD 21619.

Interment at Arlington will be at a date to be determined in Spring 2015.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 6. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Christopher's Catholic Church
1861 Harbor Drive
Chester, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Brian Power-Waters* ”



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - July 24, 2014 at 04:07 PM

DC

“ *Very sorry for family loss. My years of air traffic control in Syracuse, Chicago and Albany ny provided an avenue of mutual interest in aviation and particular in air safety. Dennis Battle ATC friend and co-contributor to air safety from air traffic control perspective.* ”

Dennis Battle, air traffic controller - June 15, 2025 at 10:23 PM



“ *Brian Power-Waters* ”

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Brian Power-Waters* ”

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Brian Power-Waters* ”

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

CT

“ Just finished reading his book, 93 seconds to disaster and wanted to email him my praise (as I believe in his theory) when I saw of his passing. My condolences, he must have been a great man, As a current active duty serviceman and aviation buff I salute you Sir.

Chris T - September 17, 2014 at 11:44 PM

CC

“ What a great man and lots of fun! Great memories that I have of the Power-Waters Family! Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. May God keep you in the palm of His hand during this time.



Colleen Curran-Bromwell - July 29, 2014 at 01:09 PM

SB

“ He both intimidated me and made me laugh. My favorite memory is when he took me in his bi-plane from house to north of Chesterown and then down to Easton. We circled over the SSPP fields while I took photos?? then I nearly puked and he let me fly back to house by me following Route 50 then 213??.
Susan LaMotte Bohaker

Susan LaMotte Bohaker - July 26, 2014 at 03:18 PM

 James Morrell

“ Your dad was a great man with solid conviction and he leaves a beautiful legacy

James Morrell - July 25, 2014 at 11:37 PM

DE

“ My papa was a great man he was a father of 4 and a hard working husband and most of all a great grandpa. I will always remember my papa . One of my fav memories of my papa is on every Christmas he always loved getting books and he loved to read about planes and he loved to write his own books. He wrote 5 books he was a great writer. My papa was a joyful person I will never forget my papa I love u papa.~Devyn



Devyn - July 24, 2014 at 10:49 PM

JK

“ Dear Kay:

I did not know your father (Captain X) well, but I do know that he was highly respected by his fellow Mohawk Pilots and Flight Attendants. Our Airline Family will be diminished by his death. Please accept the deepest sympathy of the Soaring Eagle Board.

Joe Kernan

(USAir retired)

Joe Kernan - July 24, 2014 at 03:01 PM

LB

“ Lift "290 pounds at the age of 79" Wow! I remember Steve giving us a tour of his work out room when we helped him nail shingles on the house many years ago. Deepest sympathy Laurette, Kay and Family.

Len & Kelly Bollinger - July 24, 2014 at 02:07 PM

JB

“ Dear Kay:
Our deepest sympathy for your loss of "P-W".
It seems that almost every time we see a note
from the soaring eagles or the airline, we
have lost another old friend. At times though,
the loss has gotten to be someone so junior that we don't even
know the person. That makes it all the harder when we see that the
loss was one of those from way back in Mohawk days.
All the best to you and yours in these hard days,
Much love,
Jack & Melissa Burchfield
(MOH, Retired)



John & Melissa Burchfield - July 24, 2014 at 10:43 AM

RE

“ Prayers of comfort and peace for the family.

Rebecca E. - July 24, 2014 at 08:37 AM

DD

“ Debbie Dean lit a candle in memory of Brian
Power-Waters



Debbie Dean - July 24, 2014 at 07:21 AM

PG

“ Only great memories of a great man, neighbor and driving force.
Appreciate the straight advice and enjoying the simple things. I will
ensure to pass on his winning ways.

Paul Grabham - July 23, 2014 at 04:37 PM

BR

“ *It is with great sadness that I hear of Brian's passing. What an amazing man who accomplished so many things. Brian had such a significant impact on my life it's hard to put into words. He gave me the opportunity to begin my business where many wouldn't. He taught me to fly an airplane and with it an appreciation of our beautiful eastern shore. Above all Brian was a family man who worshipped his family. My deepest sympathy to Kay & the girls.*

Bob Ramsey - July 23, 2014 at 09:51 AM