



Thomas Carroll Breen Jr.

April 9, 2001

Thomas Carroll Breen, Jr., 78, a retired financial officer with International Bank of Washington, died of cardiac arrest on April 9 at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, Maryland. A resident of the Washington area since 1962, Mr Breen lived in Fairfax, Va. and Kent Island, Md. until 1999, when he became a permanent Maryland resident.

He was born in Great Neck, NY on November 11, 1922, the son of the late Thomas C. and Emilie Sutter Breen. He Graduated from Great Neck High School and then attended Dartmouth College until he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. He was one of the ten original crew members of the WW-II B-17 bomber, "Blackjack", which was one of sixty bombers shot down during the October 14, 1943 "Black Thursday" raid on a German ball-bearing factory at Schweinfurt, the first of daylight raids over enemy territory. This raid earned a place in warfare history as the most savage aerial battle ever fought. The "Blackjack" lost one engine in a direct hit over the target, and German fighters continued to strike as they struggled to reach the safety of either England or Switzerland. Six hours into the flight, the "Blackjack" lost two more engines and its oxygen system. They had just crossed the Rhine River into occupied France when the pilot ordered the "abandon plane" over Metz. All the crew parachuted safely into the French countryside. Nine of them, including Mr. Breen, were captured by the German Occupational Forces. One crew member was sheltered, at great risk, by a French farm family. After two years

as prisoners of war, they were all liberated by Patton's 5th Army, and returned to the United States. Mr. Breen went on to graduate from Yale University and to graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania, studying Business Law and Accounting.

He joined International Bank in NY in 1953. The same year he married Patricia Flood, who died in 1991. After a four year stint in Monrovia, Liberia with the International Bank he returned to New York, and relocated to the Washington area in 1962. He retired in 1986, after serving as Vice President of Financial General Corp., President of Industrial Agency, Inc., President of Risks International, all subsidiaries of International Bank of Washington. After retiring, he served as Annuity Manager of First Washington Insurance, Inc. and as an Independent General Agent specializing in Long Term Care and Term Life Insurance.

In 1995, he married Alice Lee Collins. He loved golf, sailing and taking an active part in Democratic Politics. He was an avid wine collector, and a self-proclaimed gourmet. A former member of the Ccountry Club of Fairfax, he was a member of the Kent Island Yacht Club and the Corsica River Yacht Club.

Mr. Breen is survived by his wife, Alice Lee Breen, of Stevensville; a son, Thomas C. Breen III of Fairfax Va.; a daughter, Victoria L. Breen of Leesburg; a brother, Robert Breen of Munich, Germany; a step-daughter, Lisa Collins, of Fairfax; and a grandson, Christopher, of Stevensville.

A Mass will be held at St. Christopher's Catholic Church, Chester, Md., on Tuesday, April 17 at 12 Noon. Family and friends may call at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, at 106 Shamrock Road, Chester, Maryland on Monday, April 16, from 3 to 5 PM and from 7 to 9 PM. Burial will be at Crownsville Veteran's Cemetery, Crownsville, Maryland.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association C/O Sheila Bateman, 501 Dutchman"s Lane, Easton MD.21601, or to the charity of choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Carroll Breen Jr.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Thomas Carroll Breen Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Thomas Carroll Breen Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM