



Richard Francis Braden

September 25, 1946 - May 9, 2014

Capt. Richard Francis Braden was born September 25, 1946 to John and Eleanor Braden. He died peacefully on May 9 in Escondido, CA. Affectionately known as Skip, he was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Braden graduated from St. Mary's University of Minnesota in 1968 with a degree in Business. He then joined the United States Navy in 1968. While stationed on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, he met and married the love of his life, Susan Palka. The couple settled in the San Diego area and had two sons, Paul (Rick) Braden and John Braden. They eventually made their home in Escondido, CA.

Braden's distinguished military career spanned 27 years as a Naval Officer and Naval Aviator. During his career as a Naval Aviator, Braden amassed over 5000 flight hours and 400 Carrier landings.

His career was marked by several key leadership assignments, including three command tours of Aviation Squadrons and several staff assignments involving planning and operations.

Braden was noted for his exceptional leadership abilities and for his mentorship. He had an extremely positive impact on the personal and professional development of hundreds who served for and with him. Braden's military career stands as a legacy of excellence and an example of dedication, loyalty and exemplary performance and he was highly respected throughout the Navy.

During his retirement years, Braden was a consultant and businessman in the automobile industry and served on boards for numerous charitable organizations including the VAW VRC Foundation. He also followed his passion for classic cars. He was a member of the Early Ford V8 club and was a regular fixture at Escondido's Crusin' Grand events during the summer.

As accomplished as his Naval and private sector careers were, his legacy as a devoted family man was even greater. Braden was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He enjoyed traveling with his family, especially to Hawaii where he and Susan first met. While his sons were in high school, he never missed a San Pasqual football game to watch his sons play and always supported their passions and interests. In Braden's later years, his three granddaughters took center stage. He loved to travel, swim or treat them to his favorite gelato. He also enjoyed taking them to Crusin' Grand or for a spin in one of his classic cars.

Braden is survived by his wife of 42 years, Susan; their children; Paul (Rick) Braden and his wife Alexis Braden and John Braden and his fiancé Heidi Doyle. Braden also is survived by his three beautiful granddaughters; Willa, Grace, and Josie. Additionally, Braden is survived by his sister Marybeth Keal, her husband Charlie Keal, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to attend a funeral mass on Friday at 10 AM at the Church of St. Timothy, 2960 Canyon Rd, Escondido, CA 92025.

Remembrances may be made to Voices Against Brain Cancer, 1375 Broadway, 3rd Floor, ^L_{SEP}New York, NY 10018

Cemetery

Miramar National Cemetery

5795 Nobel Drive

San Diego, CA, 92122

Events

MAY **Mass** 10:00AM

16

Church of St. Timothy

2960 Canyon Rd, Escondido, CA, US

Comments



“ Braden Family,

I am so sorry to read about the death of your loved one. Something that helped me when my grandfather died was the bible's hope. It assures us God is near to those that are broken at heart and those who are crushed in spirit he saves. We read about this at Psalm 34:18. Yes, more than anything else, a relationship with God can help you to cope with the death of someone you love. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Sincerely,
Sally Roslund

Sally - May 18, 2014 at 04:58 PM



“ I (Donna Birchfield) first heard about Skip from my big sister Carole (Sue's sister-in-law). She spoke very highly of him. I thought maybe one day I'd get the opportunity to meet him. The chance came in 2007 when we all went on vacation together to Cabo, Mexico. Carole, Joe, Sue, Skip, me and my husband Randy. Carole's comments finally clicked when Skip spoke his first words to me. He was a combination of commanding and charming both at the same time. He had character and integrity. He pulled me right in. So handsome, and that crooked smile of his didn't hurt either. I had never liked a person so quickly. He had such a presence. It was right in front of me, what all the talk was about. He was fun, lighthearted and full of life! I recently saw him at his 67th birthday, it would be his last. I knew then he would have some hard times ahead of him. I saw all the love that surrounded him with his beautiful grandchildren and family. I feel for their loss. The void must be unbearable. He touched each and every one of their lives in such a special way. I know this because he touched mine. He is gone now, but he will live on in their hearts forever for who he was! May God comfort his family in their time of need. Anytime I see a big blue sky, I will always think of Skip. He is now among the heavenly clouds doing what he loved, flying forever!!!!

Donna Birchfield - May 13, 2014 at 09:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Francis Braden.



May 13, 2014 at 12:50 PM