

**In Loving Memory**

**William (Bill) Matthew Hensinger**

**April 29, 1940 - October, 13, 2022**



Raised in Queens, New York with his German parents, Matthias and Lena, and went to St. Thomas church and school in Woodhaven, NY.

Bill kept his sense of humor till the very end. Had a knack for one liners even up to his last days. Loved telling jokes especially the Lufthansa one. Every place we went whether with friends, social events, professional or military reunions, he would ask me if he had ever told his favorite joke to that group. Even when I told him that he already did, somehow before the event ended, he managed to stand up and start the joke with a big smile. His German accent is what everyone loved; SO, they politely listened again and again.

His first ambition was to be a baseball player thanks to his stick ball days but it was not to be. He wanted to become a commercial airline pilot. But in June of 1963, Bill enlisted in the US Army and Uncle Sam and the US Army, because of the Vietnam War, had different plans for Candidate Hensinger. So off to Mineral Wells, Texas he went to helicopter flight school. He called me from a phone booth on the post and said he would not hang up and go outside because the Sergeants and Tack Officers were waiting there just to harass the candidates to test their resolve. It was a long phone call.

His helicopter career began from there; first graduating flight school to a year in Vietnam, to a Flight Instructor while still on active duty, to a helicopter traffic patrol reporter on CBS evening news. Then the Nassau County Police Department on Long Island, New York hired him as the first Chief Pilot in the new Aviation Bureau. 30 years later he retired. His Army training provided the skills for his safe landings but his drive for Safety and Perfection mandated the constant practice hours. He passed his expertise on to all the pilots he trained. A fellow Police Officer called to say that Bill's professional safety skills have been passed down to countless pilots.

During all those years, Bill studied to complete his Bachelor's degree in criminology while always holding down a part time job. He rose to the rank of Sergeant in the Police Department.

The New York Yankees and NY Giants were his teams and Jack Nicklaus his golf idol. Music was an enjoyable pastime.

Golf was his passion. From its science to making his own clubs, reading endless "How-To" books, watching instructing videos and his favorite players on TV or in person at tournaments, practicing usually more than playing a round of golf was fun for him. The game brought him golfing buddies that lasted his lifetime.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Robin and his son, Robert and daughter-in-law, Debra. God gave him four wonderful grandchildren to cherish and enjoy, Alexandra, Megan, Julia and Brandon. I was lucky to be his sweetheart for five years and his wife for 57 years. Our family was truly blessed with this kind, thoughtful and sensitive man.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Hershey, PA.

He was laid to rest in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery near our home with full military honors.

May he Rest in Peace and God Bless, Love Grace.