

Henry (Hank) Lyle Bannister

Henry (Hank) Lyle Bannister died peacefully after an unfortunate fall, on June 30, 2023 in Victoria, B.C. He was born November 27, 1934 in Ripley, Ontario.

He is predeceased by his son Paul and parents Grant and Winnifred (Wilson), his brother Roy and sisters: Shirley, Ruby and Ann, and nephews Tommy and Kris. Hank is survived by his wife Darleen (née Robinson) and his children Wayne ('Jet'), Wendy, and Lee (Adele); grandchildren Kris, Angela, Jessica, Rachel, Alex, Paula and 12 great grandchildren, as well as nephews (Gus, Mark, and Patrick) and nieces (Kelly, Petrina and Karri) in Ontario. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by many other relatives/in-laws, friends and co-workers here on the coast.

Hank enrolled in Junior Air Officer's basic training on June 29th, 1953. Two years later he married Darleen on June 3rd, 1955. Hank had a long career in Naval Air serving on board ships HMCS Cornwallis, Ontario, Stettler, Niagara, USS Saipan, Magnificent, Bonaventure, Athabaskan and Huron. He and Darleen were constantly moving from base to base including CFB Esquimalt, with a quick stop at USNAS Pensacola, Fla. and USNAS Kingsville, Texas, as well as two bouts at C.F.B. Shearwater and ending at C.F.B. Winnipeg as Base Flight Safety Officer. While in the service Hank flew numerous aircraft including fixed wing aircraft like the T-28 Trojan, Harvard, TBM Avenger, T-33 T-Bird, C-45, Dakota and the Tracker (CS2F). He also flew rotary winged aircraft such as HTL-6 (Bell 47), Sea Horse (H05S-3), Sea King (CH 124) the Huey 204 and the

Twin Huey 212 for a total of approx. 14,000 l



While in service Hank and Darleen raised their 4 children. Hank enjoyed running and ran several marathons in Winnipeg, Portland Ore., Victoria and Vancouver. In his middle years he also enjoyed banging a squash ball around the courts.

Hank retired on 2nd Nov, 1979 as Lieutenant Commander with the CD with bar medal. While Hank and Darleen moved from coast to coast, they finally set down in Darleen's home region of Victoria, B.C. They settled in North Saanich where Hank built the home he had designed a few years earlier.

In civilian life Hank did some contract flying for Kenting Aviation starting in May 1981. He flew the A-Star 350 and the Hughes 500, then settled into flying the Jet Ranger with Alberta Government Services. He finally retired from flying in December 1993 and started enjoying his family and garden full-time. There were many Easter Egg hunts, BBQ's, Christmas dinners and even a mortgage burning celebration with family and friends. Hank loved to spend time cooking for family and was an avid cook, leaving behind many food-stained cook books and newspaper recipes.

Many thanks to the 5th floor South staff at Victoria General who provided care and compassion.

A Celebration of Hank's life will take place at The Sequoia

Centre at McCall Gardens, 4665 Falaise Drive on Sunday August 27, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Knowledge Network, www.knowledge.ca and/or The ALS Society of Canada, at donate.als.ca .

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

www.mccallgardens.com