



## Bill Brannen Sr.

December 24, 1922 - October 2, 2019

Mr. William T. "Bill" Brannen of Milledgeville, GA, passed away on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. A Private Funeral Service will be held on Friday, October 4, 2019 with Rev. Stephanie Caldwell officiating. Burial will be in Heritage Memorial Park.

Mr. Brannen graduated from Anniston High School, Anniston, Alabama, and attended Emory University. He married his high school sweetheart Nelle Whelchel the day he received his Navy wings in Corpus Christi, TX and the Brannens celebrated their 73rd anniversary on August 21, 2016. Nelle preceded him in death in June, 2017.

Lieutenant Brannen served three active duty tours as a Navy Combat Carrier Pilot, flying TBM torpedo bombers from the jeep carrier, U.S.S. Bismarck Sea; the last carrier sunk during WWII (at Iwo Jima). He also flew F4U (Corsairs) from the U.S.S. Coral Sea, and was a Test Pilot at the Naval Test Facility, Patuxent River, MD.

The Brannens moved many times in the early years of their marriage, settling in Marietta, GA, where their children were reared. In Marietta, Mr. Brannen was a member of the First Baptist Church. He held memberships in the Kiwanis Club and Marietta Country Club; he was a champion golfer and held club championship titles in several area clubs.

He retired from Civil Service with the Corp of Engineers at Ft. Benning, Georgia in 1992 moving to Milledgeville for their retirement years; the Brannens became members of the Milledgeville First United Methodist Church and the George O. King Sunday school class. Mr. and Mrs. Brannen took much pleasure in helping with the Meals on Wheels program, operating out of the Oconee Regional Medical Center.

Bill was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend. Beloved survivors include: two daughters, Becky Wood (Henry), Durham, NC; Kay Collins (John) Milledgeville, Ga; two sons, Bill Brannen, Jr. (Maribeth), Alpharetta, Ga; David Brannen (Claire), Versailles, KY; grandchildren, Keith Wood (Susan), Atlanta, Ga.; Christopher Wood (Zoe), Durham, NC; Courtney Collins Cawley (Chris) Macon, Ga.; Kyle Collins Hitchcock (Andrew) Milledgeville, Ga., Jennifer Wood; Jack Brannen, Kate Brannen Smith (Andrew), Jane Brannen Driver (Daniel); great-grandchildren, Elliott and Emily Wood; Brannen, Turner and Isabel Wood; Chandler, Kip, Emily Collins and Sterling Elizabeth Cawley; Abbie Kate, Canon, and Caroline Hitchcock; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Milledgeville Christian Counseling Center at First United Methodist Church or to the St. Andrews Anglican Church located at 115 Paddock Drive, Versailles, KY, 40383.

# Cemetery Details

## Heritage Memorial Park

371 Log Cabin Road  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(478) 452-2148  
staff@williamsfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.williamsfuneralhome.net>

# Tribute Wall

PB

“ Paul And Barbara Bernichon lit a candle in memory of Bill Brannen Sr.



Paul and Barbara Bernichon - October 07, 2019 at 12:52 AM

AL

“ It was heartbreaking to hear Bill had passed but heartwarming to know him and Nelle are together again. My fondest memory of them together is out on porch listening to gospel music. Even as his dementia progressed, he was always concerned "that them men need to eat". He was always trying to give his food away. I will miss his sweet smile. Anita

Anita Hagen LPN - October 06, 2019 at 07:25 AM



“ Mr. Brannen was on of my heroes. I will miss him and the others of the greatest generation. Our country was fortunate that such men and women served in a great time of need. God bless his family.

Dennis Mize - October 04, 2019 at 03:39 PM

ME

“ Uncle Bill will always be a source of happy memories for me. As a little girl, he was one of the adults that always loved on all of us kids...making us laugh and keeping us in tow at the same time. I was always excited when he and Aunt Nelle would arrive and sad when they left! I am incredibly grateful for every moment and memory of that twinkle in his eye and the fun that he stirred up!

melynda - October 04, 2019 at 12:55 PM

KC

“ Kay I'm so very, very sorry to hear of Mr. Bill's passing just breaks my heart. Please know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Kay Callihan** - October 03, 2019 at 09:13 PM

KE

“ Dear Aunt Kay and Uncle John,  
So So So sorry to hear of your loss, at this challenging time, you are ALL in my heart and prayers and please know I am there in spirit with you always. Sending so much love and good energy and blessings your way. XOXO Kellie

**Kellie** - October 03, 2019 at 10:45 AM

SA

“ Kay and John, our hearts go out to you two in the loss of Kay's Dad in addition to the ongoing health problems in your family. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you. Stan and Wanda



**Stan and Wanda Aldridge** - October 03, 2019 at 08:58 AM

VA

Kay & John,  
Sending our prayers for comfort and strength to both of you and the entire family at such a challenging time. May there be a sweet spirit to cover your heart as you go day by day. Remember, to praise and thank our dear Lord for such a wonderful daddy. His life is such a awesome legacy he has left you, and your siblings, all the children, and grandchildren. Continued prayers.

**Vivian Andrews** - October 03, 2019 at 02:39 PM

KH

“ *Kay I'm sorry to hear about your Daddy. Please know that you and your family are in my prayers.*

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**Kristen (Peek) Hamm** - October 03, 2019 at 08:46 AM

KB

*Kay, Denny and I are sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He and your mom are together again in Heaven. They were both wonderful examples for all of us. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and John at this time. We continue to pray for you both in your health endeavors. Karen and Dennis Bond*

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**Karen Bond** - October 03, 2019 at 12:52 PM

MR

“ *Keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers. Bill was a great man and a true hero. He will be fondly remembered by all of us. The Roberts Family*

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**Michael and Jill Roberts** - October 03, 2019 at 07:35 AM

DD

*Had the pleasure of spending time with Mr. B during this past year. He was definitely a special person. My thoughts are with the family as you say a final goodbye.*

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**Doris Daniel** - October 04, 2019 at 06:54 AM