

Captain Billy Jean Marette (Bill) was born April 30, 1931 in Nottingham England and died at the dawn of his 84th year on April 29, 2015 GMT in West Vancouver Canada surrounded by his family.



Survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Barbara Jean Marette (nee Barbie Scott), son Steven Marette (Katherine Allard-Marette), daughter Leanne Marette (Bob Styan), daughter Shannon Marette; and three grandchildren Duncan, Vanessa and Zoë.

He was the last in the line of his immediate family from Nottingham via Belgium with being predeceased by his parents Henri & Jeanne, and brothers Léon & Martin.

Bill from the start of his life was an adventurer leaving his home at the conclusion of World War II at 13 years old on a scholarship to attend the now world renowned Gordonstoun School in both Llandinam Wales and Elgin Scotland. Then attending HMS Conway Naval College on the Menai Straits of Wales to become a Royal Merchant Marine. By the time Bill was 22 years of age he attained the level of 1st Mate of a Foreign Going Steam Ship and already had a 7-year career at sea around the world with Clan Line and other shipping fleets. His working career at sea was fulfilled with him piloting ships up and down the BC coast for Canadian Pacific Ferries and settling permanently in Vancouver.

It was at this time in 1953 Bill discovered his passion for flying and already armed with a mastery of naval navigation he set about to achieve his private and commercial flying licences in record time. In 1954 he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Navy and rose to the rank of Lieutenant with Her Majesty's Canadian Fleet as part of the Royal Canadian Air Force Reserves serving part time until 1964. With the RCAF Reserves he flew cargo to supply the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line radar stations in the Canadian Arctic and was involved in other humanitarian missions. Also during this time in 1955 he was hired full time with Canadian Pacific as a commercial pilot with Canadian Pacific Airlines and its later name Canadian Airlines. With CPA Bill had an illustrious 37-year flying career spanning from props to the golden age of transcontinental jets and jumbo jets. In the last two years before retiring in 1991, Bill as a captain was considered one of the most experienced active commercial pilots in Canada.



Bill was a pilot's captain and he absolutely loved the art flying. Many a junior flight crew would remember to make sure they had brushed up, especially on navigation, before climbing on the flight deck with Bill. He had a wealth of knowledge and always was someone you wanted to have as your mentor.

His approach to his life, hobbies, friends and family was the same way as his work, driven, reliable, gregarious and "always" on time; his word was his bond. He found the time to be a volunteer fireman for the West Vancouver fire department for 9 years. A prolific builder of wood furniture, renovation projects and his pride and joy a monolithic family home he built from the ground up. During his retirement you would find Bill in his workshop and his creations and handy work are still amongst the community, friends, family and celebrities alike.

Bill often remarked that he was very lucky in life in finding his wife and partner Barbie. Much of what he was able to achieve would have not been possible without her love, support and endless supply of positivity. A former flight attendant herself she understood Bill's responsibilities, his foibles and had the touch to soften his edges. Bill was a devoted family man he imparted a strong sense of self-reliance, industriousness and can-do attitude on all of his children and grandchildren. To the end and always in his heart was his loving wife Barbie for whom he delayed his final flight west as long as he could. His final flight check was that she was forever loved and taken care of before Bill took his clearance for take off.

This was a life well lived and a mission accomplished with no regrets. Please join us in the celebration of Bill's life 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Saturday July 18, 2015 at:

The Royal Canadian Legion
West Vancouver (BC/Yukon) Branch 60
550 18th Street
West Vancouver
British Columbia V7V 5V7

In lieu flowers please treat yourself to a good pint or your favourite tippie; or give to the BC Cancer Society. We know that is what Bill would have wanted.

