

The Express

Today's News Today

Howard L. Graves

POSTED: May 5, 2009

Howard was born in Elmira, N.Y. on June 11, 1917 and was a son of the late Howard and Edna Graves.

He pursued a career in aviation after graduating from New York State Aviation School in Elmira.

He married Florence Miller on Dec. 15, 1939 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Lock Haven.

They have a son, Howard Jr., and his wife, Karen; a daughter, Diane Graves Bates, and her husband, Paul; three grandchildren, Ashley Graves, Shelley Bates Rannie and her husband, Mark; and Steven Bates and his wife, Joni; three great-grandchildren, Matthew and Jacob Howard Rannie and Christopher Bates, and two step-great-grandchildren, Samantha and Robert Diggles.

Mr. Graves worked for Piper Aircraft in Lock Haven for 33 years and was Airport Manager and Director of the Flight Center at the W.T. Piper Airport until 1979 when he retired.

During World War II he was an Air Force instructor at Carlstrom Field in Arcadia, Fla., and an Advanced Flight Instructor in the Air Corps on the AT6 Airplane in Clewiston, Fla. until 1945, instructing both American and British cadets.



After retiring from Piper Aircraft in 1979 and moving to Florida for the second time, he met author Will Largent in 1993 who was writing a now-published book about the "RAF over Florida," and this revived his interest in his days at Carlstrom and Riddle Fields.

Also, in 2009, Dr. Stephen Kraft, a professor at Embry Riddle University, published his book "Embry-Riddle at War" which contains excerpts about Mr. Graves' life as an instructor at Riddle Field during WW II.

Mr. Graves lived in Jacaranda in Venice, Fla. from 1979 to 1989 and was a charter member of the Jacaranda Country Club. He later moved to the Pinebrook/Ironwood Golf Club and Community in Bradenton, Fla., staying for 20 years.

He was a member of the Bel Air United Methodist Church, the #5 BFTS Association and a charter member of The Quiet Birdmen, Harrisburg Chapter.

In 1999 he and his wife, Florence, who survives him, moved to Bel Air, Md., to be near their daughter and family. His interest in golf continued until he was 89, and he played in the Senior Group at Geneva Farms Gold Club.

Also surviving him is his sister, DeEtta Graves Miller, and her family and the family of his deceased brother, Lawrence Graves.

Memorial services will be held at Evans Funeral Chapel & Cremation Service - Bel Air, 3 Newport Drive, Forest Hill, Thursday, May 7 at 8 p.m., with gathering of friends starting at 6 p.m. The Rev. Barry Hidey of Bel Air United Methodist will officiate.

If desired, contributions may be made to Piper Aviation Museum, 1 Piper Way, Lock Haven, Pa., 17745.

Memory tributes in Howard's name may be sent to www.evansfuneralchapel.com.

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