



William A. Langen

January 20, 1922 - February 10, 2007

View Mr. Langen's Video Tribute [William A. Langen, Jr.](#), 85, formerly of Doylestown, PA, passed away on February 10, 2007 at his home in Woodbury, NJ. He was born January 20, 1922, in Union City, NJ, to William A. Langen and Carla (von Kuewnick) Langen. His wife, Helen, predeceased him in 1994 and his sister, Lilian, in 2003. Bill grew up in Hoboken, NJ, graduating from A.J. Demarest High School in 1940. He met Helen Falls there as a student; he married her in 1943 on the same day that he got his Navy wings in catapult seaplanes at Pensacola, Florida. Bill spent time as a flight instructor at Bunker Hill NAS in Indiana before being sent to seaplane training at Pensacola and a squadron in Jacksonville. Following a serious crash with a student pilot and for the rest of his life he called himself 'Lucky Langen'. Bill flew "everything except jets". After the war, Bill returned to New York University for his aeronautical engineering degree graduating in 1951. He accomplished this while working multiple jobs to support his wife and two young daughters. His first professional position was designing airships for Goodyear at their North Canton, OH, plant; he returned to active Navy duty for airship pilot training at Lakehurst, NJ in 1953. He remarked that he flew heavier-than-air, and then flew lighter-than-air. He considered himself lucky to accumulate over 3200 flight hours prior to his 1982 retirement as a Commander. Bill continued to work for the United States Navy in a civilian capacity, first at the Naval Air Engineering Center, Philadelphia and later at the Naval Air Development Center (Johnsville), Warminster, PA, retiring as

Director of Air Vehicle Technology in 1980. He went into private practice as a professional engineer, and was involved in many interesting projects with various companies. Bill and Helen moved to Hilton Head, SC, in 1991; she died there in 1994, and he returned to his beloved Doylestown, becoming an integral part of many military and engineering associations. He also served on the board at Westwyk, his residence until his move to Woodbury Mews in late 2006. Sharing many activities with Carol Crompton, a very special friend, enriched the last decade of his life. Three daughters and sons-in-law, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and his brother-in-law survive him. They include: Carol and Bill McCorey, of Beaufort, SC; her children Steven Calogero of Lompoc, CA, and Pamela and Paul Sperry, of Johns Island, SC and great-grandchildren Eliza and Emily Sperry. Ellen and Malcolm Dawson, of Sewell, NJ; their children Jane and Dale Midgett and Susan and Scott Rosenberger of Mantua, NJ and great-grandchildren Cameron Midgett, and Lauren and Andrew Rosenberger. Victoria and Frederick Cuneo, of Moorestown, NJ, and her children, James and Helen Phelan. Brother-in-law Robert Falls (Joan) of Etlan, VA. In lieu of flowers, please consider two museums that Bill was a vital part of developing and was dedicated to preserving. They are the Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Museum Association, NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA 19090 (<http://www.dvhaa.org>). Also, the National Museum of Naval Aviation, 1750 Radford Blvd, Ste. C., Pensacola, FL 32508, (<http://naval.aviation.museum/home.html>). A memorial service is planned for March 2 at Willow Grove Naval Air Station Chapel at 11 AM. Please visit: <https://home.comcast.net/~williamlangen/> for entrance details.

Tribute Wall



“ *William A. Langen*

November 27, 2022 at 03:45 PM



“ *What a lovely tribute. It brought back many good memories, and provided delightful glimpses into Bill's devotion to his family. We will miss his presence, but remember him fondly.*
Doug and Martha

Doug and Martha Dyckes - March 17, 2007 at 10:29 AM



“ *My condolences to all the family. I had the pleasure of knowing your Dad briefly and always enjoyed his company. He was truly a kind and considerate gentleman.*

June Hansen Medal - February 25, 2007 at 11:03 AM



“ *Bill Langen was a long time friend and fits into the category of being a perfect gentleman. Everything about Bill was sincere, a perfectionist, fun to be with and such a good friend. Bill and Helen were both very good friends of ours for many years. We will miss him and think of him often. Love to Ellen, Vicky and Carol and all his grandchildren. Doris and Morm Morrill*

Doris and Norman Morrill - February 20, 2007 at 09:56 AM

JT

“ So enjoyed the information I did not know about your Dad. He was such a great guy and role model. Best wishes and my thoughts..Janet

Janet Tweedle - February 20, 2007 at 09:53 AM

BS

“ Ellie, We grieve with you and your family over the loss of your father. Bill was such a wonderful person and his absence from our lives will always leave a void.
The video is a wonderful tribute to Bill. He was a good son, husband, father and friend. The final photo made me smile as I know how much he loved the airships.
Our thoughts and prayers go to you and yours. You must know our hearts are aching too. Love Karen

Bill and Karen Crompton Stanson - February 19, 2007 at 01:37 PM

KW

“ Dear Vicki and family...So sorry to hear that you have lost your dear Dad! I have such fond memories of him. Wishing you time's peace and love's memories! Kari

Kari Hansen Webster - February 18, 2007 at 09:21 PM

MP

“ Ellen, So sorry to hear of your loss. May your dad rest in peace and his soul be reunited with your mom forever. May you find peace in the idea that his journey has come to an end and that he is with the Lord forever. His continuing legacy will always be seen in you and all the family and I am sure that he was truly proud of you all. God bless, Michael

Michael A. Pszwaro - February 16, 2007 at 08:32 AM

MB

“ *We wish to express our condolences to the family of William Langen.*

Maria-Luise, Claudia, Richard and Stephen Bonetti - February 15, 2007 at 09:50 PM