



## BARRY WINGO COATS

July 30, 1933 - February 9, 2021

Commander Barry Wingo Coats, USN (Ret), passed away peacefully from this life on February 9, 2021 surrounded by his loved ones. He was 87 years old. He was born in Boliver, Tennessee, the son of Eveline Savage Coats and Henry Orren Coats. Barry bravely, and with much dignity, fought the good fight with Alzheimer's Disease. He started his life of travel as a young teenager by accompanying his mother and step father Horace Holmes, along the way attending school in Shanghai, China and Mussoorie, India. After graduating from Georgia Tech and marrying his sweetheart, Mary Helen "Tippy" Joiner, he began his lifelong love of the skies as a Naval aviator. He began with Blimps in Brunswick, Ga., then Seaplanes, in Puerto Rico, and finally on to his favorite aircraft of all, helicopters. Serving with Helicopter Anti-Submarine squadrons 7, 3 and 1 on the East Coast, as well as attending Defense Intelligence School in Washington D.C. He later worked at the National Security Agency, and attended War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and would go on to graduate from George Washington University with a masters degree in international affairs. He later took command of Helicopter Squadron 8, located at the time at Imperial Beach, California. After his flying days, he spent the remainder of his 26 years, on the USS New Orleans (LPH) as the Air Boss, then became the Liaison Officer for the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, based in Guam, and lastly, Civil Affairs officer at CINCPAC, Camp Smith in Honolulu, Hawaii. After his retirement from the Navy, he turned his attention to military contracting working on various development projects

throughout the U.S and the Pacific region. After his work-life was completed, the Coats family came back to live in Coronado where Barry and Tippy became active members of Christ Episcopal Church of Coronado. He also enjoyed repairing sports cars, traveling, music and perfecting his biggest challenges of all as a husband, a father, a son, friend, brother, uncle, grandfather of 6 and great grandfather of two. Barry leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Tippy Coats, brothers Richard Holmes and Henry Coats, sister, Jo Thompson, daughters Lin Foletta (Mark), April Switay (Ken) and son Barry Coats ( Stacie). Although his family feels the immense loss of his absence, knowing his final destination brings them great comfort and joy. Due to COVID restrictions, a memorial celebration of Barry's life will be held by the family at a later date in the Spring at Miramar National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to George G. Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers, INC. ([www.glenner.org](http://www.glenner.org)) in Barry's name or a charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall



“ **BARRY WINGO COATS**

January 28, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ *I am Barry's first cousin from Tennessee. Growing up some in Bolivar and our grandparents' home here was home base for the family. His stepfather and his mother traveled the world doing a government job everywhere. It was always great to see Barry come to visit. I miss those days and our long talks. I will miss him greatly.*



**Ken E Savage** - March 06, 2021 at 05:13 PM



“ *Having gotten acquainted through church, Randy and I decided to have a friends gathering at our home. After sharing a meal and visiting, we played the dice game of Bunco. Several tables of 4 people, a set of dice at each table, and a bell, the game begun. The goal was to get to the score of 21. Rolling the same number on all five dice was a Bunco and the game winner. After a few rolls, Barry was the first to yell Bunco. Everyone was screaming and booing over his win, stopping the game, getting up to move to the next table when Barry confessed he had no Bunco. He didn't ever have a Bunco but Barry kept the game lively and exciting by yelling Bunco every few minutes with more enthusiasm than a child winning at Hide and Seek.*

**Diane Kitson** - March 06, 2021 at 01:02 PM

BA

“ *Barry lit a candle in memory of BARRY WINGO COATS*



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**Barry** - March 03, 2021 at 05:04 AM

BA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Barry** - March 03, 2021 at 05:04 AM

WS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Woody Savage** - March 02, 2021 at 02:52 PM

AP

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**april** - March 01, 2021 at 10:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**april** - March 01, 2021 at 10:43 PM