



Barry E. Breen

Sept 6, 1945 – Dec 30, 2014

Barry Breen of Melbourne, Florida passed away on December 30, 2014 at the age of 69 years old from a rare illness, Familial Amyloidosis, which he had been suffering with for nearly a decade or more. Barry lived in Tehachapi from 1985-2003 and had served as a member of the Airport Commission, as Vice-President of the Tehachapi Health Care District, and as President of the Tehachapi Unified School District Board. He was employed at both China Lake Naval Weapons Center and then at Edwards Air Force Base while living in Tehachapi,

with his last 15 years at Edwards. One of his past roles was Chief of the Avionics Engineering Flight/Ground Test Division. Barry was deeply involved in developing the merit pay system at Edwards known as "CCAS" and frequently led hiring initiatives for new, highly qualified engineers, including developing internship opportunities for college students during the Summer. Barry was also the adoptive father of John Breen who died of the pneumonic plague in 1995; John had been born in Colombia and was adopted by Barry several years earlier.

Mr. Breen, was born in Santa Monica, CA, on September 6, 1945, and he was raised in Southern California. He grew up across the street from Roy Rogers as a 6-12 year old in the early San Fernando Valley, just north of Los Angeles. His Father, Cy Breen, died at 100 in 2012 and was also well known in the Los Angeles area. Barry majored in engineering at [UCLA](#) ('63-'68) and he was a member of Theta Xi National Fraternity, the Alpha Zeta Chapter. Later in life he served on Theta Xi Fraternity's National Board of Directors and was elected its National President, serving in that capacity from '91 - '93. He received Theta Xi's highest honor, a Member of the Order of the Unicorn, in 2000.

Barry started the Palm Bay Little League in Palm Bay, Florida in 1982, and later in life, he frequently worked at the Little League World Series on the Event/Security Staff. He also performed as a freelance photo [journalist](#) for a number of news outlets at the LLWS over a several year period.

As Barry's illness (Amyloidosis, ATTR) progressed he was treated by the Mayo Clinic and at one point had a liver transplant. He re-located to Florida to be closer to the Jacksonville Mayo Clinic where he resided until his death. While in Florida, even in the final stages of life, he became certified as a Florida Notary Public and also took up training with pistols, joining a local gun club and acquiring his concealed weapons carry permit.

Barry led a full life, and recently remarked that he was one of the luckiest people on earth to have the opportunities he had in employment and recreation. He was a certified commercial and instrument rated pilot as well as a flight instructor from 1971-1985 and owned several aircraft during that period. He loved white water rafting, and riding horses. Barry visited many riding ranches, including riding on a "Pub Crawl" for 5 days in Australia. In his mid-40s, he took up banjo playing until his illness later prevented that activity.

Dedicated to serving others, he served, voluntarily, as Tennessee State Coordinator of the AARP Driver Safety Program and in the AARP Tax-Aide Program, teaching driver safety courses and completing tax

returns for older citizens who could not afford a paid preparer. He studied and was certified by the IRS each year to volunteer in this service.

Barry is predeceased by his adopted son from Colombia who died in 1995 from the Pneumonic Plague (Tehachapi, CA) as well as his mother, Catherine Breen, his father, Cy Breen, his sister Karen Jones, and his brother Richard Breen. He is survived by several nieces, a nephew, and cousins, most of which reside in the Palm Springs area, and many good friends across the United States.

In lieu of flowers Barry requested that donations be made, instead, to his late adoptive son's scholarship fund which provides high school seniors funds to offset college expenses: THETA XI FOUNDATION - JOHN BREEN FUND, PO BOX 411393, ST. LOUIS, MO 63141 (314-993 6294), txfn@thetaxi.org. A Memorial service will be held at a Friend's house, located at 2550 Michigan Street, West Melbourne, at 2pm, Sunday, January 18, 2015.

Published in *FLORIDA TODAY* on Jan. 16, 2015

To post a memorial message about Barry on the Guest Book site set up by the *Florida Today* newspaper, please use the following link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/FloridaToday/obituary.aspx?pid=173863010>

