



## William H. Bradley

January 27, 1923 - August 6, 2018

Bill Bradley died quietly in his home on August 6th. He lived most of his 95 years in Tucson, and 71 of those years with his beloved and recently departed wife Emily. His five siblings all predeceased him. He is survived by one daughter, Gail, as well as in-laws, nephews and nieces in both the US and Germany. He will be missed by numerous friends as well.

He graduated from Tucson High School, and served in three branches of the military: the US Army, the US Navy (where he served with distinction in the Pacific during WWII) and retired from the Arizona Air National Guard. He was a draftsman and aircraft mechanic, built all four of the family homes and two private homebuilt aircraft, and had a substantial collection of Harley Davidson motorcycles during his lifetime.

A humble man of unassuming demeanor, he spent hours in his shops where he would design and build almost anything, including unique tools which enabled him to keep active even into his nineties. Forever curious, he was a self-educated historian with a keen memory for details, and charmed his companions with a dry wit delivered with a twinkle in his eye. He and his wife were grateful to have traveled extensively throughout the US and Europe, and to have lived life on their own terms.

# Cemetery

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## **Evergreen Cemetery**

3015 North Oracle Road

Tucson, AZ, 85705

# Comments

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“ I’ve owned a Harley since the early 70s but when I got my first “Knucklehead” model I asked around for whom I should approach in Tucson about restoring it. One of only 2 names that I got was Bill Bradley. He and I struck up a friendship in the 90s and I visited him and Emily usually once a week. He was longtime friends with Red Hartman down in Sierra Vista and we visited Red on several occasions. I went to Sierra Vista as Bill’s emissary when Red passed. We went to the Arizona Fly-in in Casa Grande together and we went to the Barrett-Jackson auto auction in Phoenix. I loved his company and his tutelage about all things mechanical to include his extensive knowledge of antique Harleys. I’m proud to say that I am the owner of both his last Knucklehead and his last Harley model JD, which we built together over the course of several years and both are roadworthy. Bill was like a second father to me and he will be sorely missed.

J.S. “Sky” Ferrell



**John S. Ferrell** - August 19, 2018 at 09:11 PM

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“ The most knowledgeable and trustworthy source I could turn to, first to buy my Stinson Voyager from an outside source, and then to maintain it. I will always have enormous respect for Bill. He was the epitome of an Air Guardsman. My sincere condolences to the family.

Harv Damschen

**Harv Damschen** - August 18, 2018 at 12:38 PM