



David "Tim" Travis

July 7, 1938 - June 2, 2025

David Timothy "Tim" Travis, a distinguished retired Naval Officer, accomplished aviation professional and dedicated family man, passed away peacefully on June 2, 2025 in St. Petersburg, Florida at the age of 86.

Born and raised in Fair Haven, New Jersey, Tim graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics. During his time at the Academy, he was named an All-American in lacrosse, highlighting his exceptional athletic ability. Upon graduation, Tim cross-commissioned into the United States Navy and served with honor and distinction for twenty years. His Navy career included assignments as a Naval Flight Officer in heavy photographic reconnaissance squadrons—VAP-62, flying the A-3 Skywarrior, and RVAH-7, flying the RA-5 Vigilante, faculty at the United States Naval Academy and leadership roles in key operations worldwide including Iceland and the Panama Canal Zone. He flew over 130 combat missions off the USS Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier during Vietnam earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal and many other prestigious military honors. He was also a designated High Altitude Parachutist (HELO) and an instrument-rated commercial pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours.

Following his retirement from military service, Tim dedicated himself to advancing civil aviation. As Director of the St. Petersburg Airport and Port and

later as Executive Director of the Naples Airport Authority, he led major infrastructure improvements, earned national recognition and facilitated international cruise operations that boosted local economies. His later career included leadership roles managing complex operations for the Department of Energy on Johnston Atoll, where he oversaw vital infrastructure projects and safety programs.

Tim's expertise extended internationally through his work with NATO aerial port operations in Sicily, Italy at Sigonella Naval Air Station where he skillfully navigated complex labor environments, managed airport operations, and led his team to achieve ISO 9000 certification and many prestigious awards. His later years saw him managing major airport development projects including Southwest Florida International Airport's terminal and runway expansion, leaving a lasting impact on regional aviation infrastructure. Tim's last employment was as a contractor for the Transportation Security Administration at Miami International Airport where he designed and supervised the construction and installation of upgraded in-line baggage security systems.

He held an MBA from George Washington University and a Masters Degree in Management and Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma and shared his knowledge as an adjunct faculty member at Pepperdine University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Tim was also an Accredited Airport Executive and active member of numerous professional organizations including the American Association of Airport Executives, River Rats Association and Quiet Birdmen Association.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Tim was an avid outdoorsman, marksman, and master diver, who loved flying, hunting, fishing and sailing. He was known for his integrity, leadership and unique sense of humor.

Tim is survived by his wife of 61 years Mary Travis; their children Theresa Travis of St. Augustine, Florida; Lea Travis Fox (Joe) of St. Augustine, Florida and their children Madeline, Matthew, Andrew, Zachary and Jack; Christopher Travis (Dana) of St. Petersburg, Florida and their children Finn, Eli and Priscilla; Martí Travis Gonzalez (Henry) of St. Petersburg, Florida and their child Augustine and his brother Thomas Travis (Patricia). He was predeceased by his parents Madeline and Harrison Travis, brothers William and Gerald Travis and his grandson Patrick Kolbe Gonzalez.

Tim's legacy of service, dedication, kindness and humor will live on in the hearts of his family, friends and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

In lieu of flowers, donations to: Society of St. Bartimaeus. Website: www.stbartimaeus.org

For those unable to attend, the Funeral Mass will be live-streamed at www.thefirstparish.org

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (est)

Cathedral Basilica
38 Cathedral Pl
Saint Augustine, FL 32084

Graveside Service

JUN 13. 12:15 PM - 1:00 PM (est)

San Lorenzo Cemetery
1635 U.S. 1 South
St. Augustine, FL

Tribute Wall

EL

“ *My grandpa Grumps was a great grandpa I loved him so much and I will never forget him. I loved him so much and still do.
Love Grandson Eli*



Eli - September 30, 2025 at 07:52 PM

BH

“ *To the family and friends of Tim Travis who was also my friend, I am just now hearing and reading about the loss of Tim and my world is a little sadder today. Tim and I worked together since way back in his days at RSW (2004 ish) and him being a TSA Site Lead. Tim actually helped me into this the TSA Site Lead industry of which I am still here, thanks to Tim's help. Reading Tim's obituary was really interesting, to say the least. I knew a lot of Tim's past adventures but certainly not all of them and wow, what a "Dash" Tim had. I remember Tim telling me about his Kayaking adventures around St. Pete and I remember encouraging Tim to retire while young(er) and head to the Florida Keys with his Kayak and fishing pole. I hope he did that. I wonder what happened with his pet Peacock bird? His stories of that bird always made me laugh. LOL! Our TSA contract change a few years ago, I've unfortunately lost touch with Tim and honestly, now this me even sadder that I lost contact with Tim... Tim, I hope you are resting in peace now and I know we'll reunite on the other side and talk about each others "Dash" and until then, you'll always be my friend.
Ben*

Ben Hedrick - September 10, 2025 at 07:52 AM

SW

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Tim’s passing. I had the privilege of working with Tim from 2015 to 2021. What an absolute pleasure he was! He could always make me laugh and I loved his stories about his family. Such an accomplished life and he was so humble. Always available to help and support everyone on our team. I’m so grateful I got to know him. He was a real treasure.

Sandy Wilk - July 08, 2025 at 05:28 AM

JE

“ Tim was a life long friend going back to 1958. We shared many fond memories . I will dearly miss him. My heartfelt sorrow goes out to his lovely wife Jinx and daughters Teri and Lea . Rest in peace dear classmate. You fought the good fight. Col JD Eaton, usafa 1962

James Eaton - June 26, 2025 at 07:08 AM

SS

“ Tim is a beautiful soul. I really enjoyed meeting him and chatting about great fishing spots around St. Augustine. He was a twin just like me! That made me very happy, especially since my twin passed several years ago. Tim was so kind. He told me to go fishing on the pier anytime and if I fished close to shore, while kayaking , I’d catch many fish. I miss him already.

Sylvia Sepulveda - June 11, 2025 at 06:13 PM