



Captain Alex "Ben" Watson

May 10, 1943 - November 15, 2024

Photo is circa 1980 from the Tail of the Golden Tale publication

The sad news that former Continental Captain Alex "Ben" Watson has flown

West was just received from Golden Eagles members Captain Jim Farrow and Captain Mike Hanzel. The information received was posted in an article in the Denver Post and is posted below:

"A small plane crashed into a Weld County field last week, killing the 81-year-old Nebraska pilot and kickstarting a federal investigation. Alex Watson, a Nebraska man known as Ben by friends and family, "earned his final set of wings" on Friday, according to his obituary. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, the Beech 35-B33 — a private, single-engine plane manned by Watson — took off from Chadron, Neb., between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on Friday, headed for Hudson. The plane, registered to Watson and his wife, crashed in a field near Nunn in Weld County around 2 p.m. Friday, just 50 miles north of Watson's destination, according to a preliminary crash report from the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA labeled the crash as an accident, but federal investigators still aren't sure what caused it and said the investigation could take up to two years to complete. Watson served in the U.S. Navy for six years, including as an aircraft commander during the Vietnam War, before starting a more than 30-year career as a pilot with Continental Airlines, according to his obituary. He retired in 2003 but "continued his love of general aviation, spending every summer flying to Oshkosh and Sun-n-Fun," his family wrote in the obituary. FAA officials said Watson was killed during the crash and was the only person on board. The plane was completely destroyed."

The Golden Eagles sends condolences to Ben`s family and wishes them peace and comfort as they grieve their untimely and tragic loss. Rest in peace Captain, and Godspeed on your final flight West.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, November 23rd 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Landing Place Church (11555 Chambers Rd, Brighton, CO 80603).

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Wounded Warrior Project in support of our Nation's veterans and families.

Additional information will be provided when available. We were not able to obtain a current photo or the complete official obituary for Ben as of the posting of this notice.



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