

## WILLIAM S. IVANS (1962) (1920-1999)



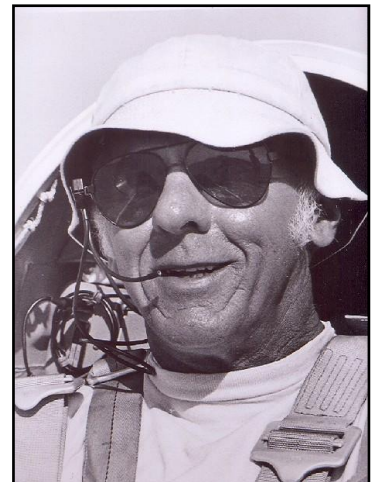
Bill Ivans – one of our very special heroes in the Hall of Fame. He served our sport in many areas – world record setter, world competition pilot, top management in both the SSA and FAI. He even had an award named for him – The William S. Ivans Gold Medal.

To quote a former SSA President (Larry Sanderson): Bill Ivans “was a true hero of the sport. In over 40 years of soaring he had amassed a record of achievements that was unparalleled, his personal integrity and honor were unquestioned, he was at the center of virtually every pivotal point in the sport since the 1940s and he was a much admired man.”

Bill Ivans was active on both a national and world level. He was the USA delegate to CIVV and its predecessor CVSM (both now IGC) for many years and served as the president of CIVV for 14 years.

He served as SSA President in 1963 and 1964 and Vice President in 1957 and 1958 and again in 1961. He was Chairman of the Contest Board through some difficult situations. As described above, he served internationally.

He set world and national records and competed in world and national competitions. Perhaps his most acclaimed record (see magazine cover above) was his altitude flight at Bishop, California on December 30, 1950 flying his Schweizer SGS 1-23 – 12,832 m (42,090 ft.) absolute altitude and 9,174.5 m (30,100 ft.) altitude gained.



Bill Ivans lived in San Diego and worked for General Dynamics/Convair, as CEO of Cohu Electronics and ultimately for himself.

Bill Ivans was awarded the Lilienthal Medal in 1950, the Tissandier Diploma in 1967, the Air Sports Medal in 1991 and the FAI-IGC President of Honour. The SSA awarded him their most prestigious trophy, the Eaton, in 1951, and the Exceptional Service Award in 1965, 1970 and 1989. He gave the Barnaby Lecture in 1989. Bill earned Silver

#102 in 1947, Gold #23 in 1950, Diamond #5 (Intl #9) in 1952 and the 1000 K Diploma #22 (Intl #57) in 1985.

Bill tragically lost his life in 1999 while flying his Nimbus 4DM with good friend Don Engen, Director of the National Air and Space Museum and retired Navy Vice Admiral.

Friend Cliff Robertson wrote the following in honor of both Bill Ivans and Don Engen:

### Quiet Men on Quiet Wings

They flew together  
These two friends  
These quiet birdmen  
On quiet wings.

And that seemed right.  
In life – in flight  
They shared the winds  
And flew above  
The mean below.

They flew above  
The rude  
The small  
Man's petty ills  
That crawl on earth  
On mean and land-locked earth.

They flew above  
The clouds that pall  
Men's dreams  
That scheme  
To keep his spirits low.

They flew above these wings.  
For they were men with quiet wings.

They've left this life  
Of storm and strife  
Caught high winds  
Toward brighter lights.  
They've joined God's skies  
Where they will soar  
Above the loud  
Above the roar.

They've joined old friends  
From other flights  
From older days  
From lower heights.

They fly together these two friends  
These quiet birdmen of kith and kin.  
They fly above  
Earth's storm and strife  
On softer winds  
In brighter light.

And when we friends  
Who knew them well  
Are asked by God  
And Don and Bill  
To join in flight  
Above the storm  
Above the strife,

May God reach out  
From Heaven above  
That we might join  
Those two we love.

And in the center  
A toast we'd tell  
Our love to birdmen  
Don and Bill.

Our love from all  
From all we'd bring  
To these quiet birdmen  
On quiet wings.

