

Zbigniew (Stanley) Bieniawski – March 25, 1926 - May 12, 2023

Stanley was born in Bieniawa, Poland, the 3rd youngest of 5 children, His early life was an ongoing struggle for survival amidst the oppression of World War II where, as a young boy in 1940, only 13, he and his family were rounded up by the Russian invaders and sent by cattle car to Siberian work camps. In June 1941 they were no longer prisoners of Siberia and set free. From there they were transported south to Uzbekistan state where the Polish Army formed. At 14 Stanley joined the Polish Army Cadets. Stanley was then shipped to Persia (Iran) and then to Iraq, Jordan and Palestine where he joined the Polish Military Academy.

Through unflinching perseverance and what can only be described as a journey through Hell. Stanley volunteered for the Polish Air Force as there was a great demand for aircrew and two weeks later, he boarded a troop ship in Port Alexandria, Egypt to England. His family joined him soon after. Stanley quickly joined the RAF as an aircraft technician and supported the second wave on D-Day and after the war trained as a tail gunner on the Lancaster Bomber.



In England he met the love of his life, Marysia (Maria/Mary) (nee Kunicka). They were married in 1949 and soon after welcomed their first child, a boy, Waldemar (Wally) followed by Janina (Janet) in 1953 and Christopher in 1954. Seeking a better life for his family, Stanley brought his young family to Canada in 1955. His passion for airplanes soon landed him a job at DeHavilland Aircraft in Downsview, ON where he quickly rose from an assembler to inspector. He worked hard all his life, sometimes holding down two jobs to make ends meet and to follow his Canadian dream. He passed this work ethic on to his children. When he and Mary became more settled in their new home, they were blessed with a 4th child in 1960, a girl, Bernadette (Bibi).

Stanley loved airplanes and in the 1960's got his Private Pilot's License where he was able to fulfill his dream of flying. During a long layoff at DeHavilland, he moved the family to Victoria BC, where he drove a bus before returning to Toronto to work for McDonnell Douglas in Malton.

Later in life he was an active member in the Royal Canadian Air Force Association 441 Wing as well as 430 Polish Warsaw Wing, Knights of Columbus, and the Canadian Air Crew Association. Stanley was the Vice President of the 441 Wing. He attended many Veteran Memorial parades and events during the years where he made sure the Polish people were remembered for their major part in freedom. He always made sure the Polish flag flew high. He will be remembered as a man who loved life and was passionate about family and friends.

Stanley is survived by his wife of 73 years Mary, his 4 children, Wally (Janet Simmons), Janina (Janet) (Michael Long), Christopher and Bernadette (Bibi) and his youngest sister, Czesia. His 7 grandchildren, Taryn, Adam, Julia, Andrea, Dennis, Jay, Christine, and his 6 great-grandchildren, Emma, Owen, Finn, Drew, Vivienne and Jacob. Memorial contributions can be made to Alzheimer Society of Canada and Royal Canadian Air Force Association Trust in Stanley's name. A Memorial Mass was held at St. Eugene de Mazonod Church, Brampton on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 at 10:30 AM which was followed by his inurnment and a reception. Mary was presented with Stanley's RCAFA 20-year membership pin at the reception by Peter Levedag and Bill Sergeant.