

# CAVU - Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited

## President and Naval Aviator George Herbert Walker Bush



LTJG Bush in cockpit of a Grumman TBF Avenger (U.S. Navy photo)

*Former President and Naval Aviator George Herbert Walker Bush passed away on November 30 at his Houston, Texas home at the age of 94. The following is a sample of the many comments and reflections made in response to his passing.*

### **Note to All Hands, USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77):**

“Avengers, it is with a heavy heart we join the nation in mourning the passing of our namesake and 41st President, George H. W. Bush. A World War II Navy pilot, statesman, and loving father, he is a true example of selfless service to the country, and his legacy will remain a guiding light to all those who serve aboard our great ship that bears his name. In this time of sorrow, we are reminded of one of his life long principles: “Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited,” or CAVU, which as the President described, is meant to wish the best of weather and unlimited possibilities in one’s own life. We will forever honor his memory by carrying on his legacy of service.”

### **From Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer:**

“President Bush’s life is a shining example of service ‘like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky.’ I offer my deepest condolences to the Bush family, their friends, loved ones, and all who had the privilege of knowing President H. W. Bush.”

### **From Chief of Naval Operations ADM John Richardson:**

“A Statesman. A Public Servant. A Sailor. The country has lost a great leader and we have lost a true shipmate. He epitomized integrity, accountability, initiative, and toughness in the service of our Nation. A Naval Aviator during WWII, a Congressman, Ambassador to the United Nations, CIA Director, Vice President, President, husband and father. His memory will continue to inspire us through the service of the aircraft carrier bearing his name. USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77) will continue to deploy around the world, protecting America from attack and securing the freedoms President Bush fought so hard to safeguard. Fair winds and following seas, Mr. President.”

### **From Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis:**

“President George Herbert Walker Bush, Naval Aviator, decorated in his youth for valor in combat, took his experience in war to build a better world as our Commander in Chief. His service to our nation demonstrated how we as a people can draw on our humility, diversity and devotion to our country to meet every challenge with fortitude and confidence. We will miss him, but at the going down of the day, his example will long guide our Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines for how to live life without regret.”



National Ensign lowered to half mast aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) (U.S. Navy photo)

***“My Navy days taught me the true meaning of friendship and of freedom. And looking back, I love my time serving in the Navy, the three years, aboard the San Jacinto, CVL-30, flying in Torpedo Squadron 51. And they made a man out of a scared kid.”***

- George H. W. Bush address to the crew aboard CVN-77