

February 8, 2005

Bill and Mardie Scott  
8226 Alafia Ridge Road  
Riverview, FL 33569

Dear Bill and Mardie:

I am writing to report the death of my Father, Capt. Francis Y. Thigpen, USN, who passed away on November 26, 2004. He is survived by my Mother, Ann Thigpen and three children. My Father was involved with the Essex Organization, and was co-host of the reunion which was held in Pensacola, Florida.

I have enclosed the copy of the obituary as you have requested, which highlights his extended Naval Career. If you need any additional information, please contact me at 615-646-8722 or bpwatson11@cs.com.

Thank you very much for your assistance. He was a great man.

Sincerely,



Patricia Watson

Daughter

**FRANCIS Y. THIGPEN**  
**1924-2004**



Captain Francis Y. Thigpen, 80, of Navarre, FL passed away on Friday, November 26, 2004.

He was born in Montgomery, AL on May 30, 1924. Captain Thigpen served in the United States Navy from 1942 to 1973. He served as a pilot on the USS ESSEX with Fighter Bomber Squadron 83, and took part in the Okinawa and Japan campaigns of 1945. Captain Thigpen also served on the USS BATAAN during the Korean War and as Commanding Officer of VS-32, Quonset Point, RI. He served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Command Center Operations Chief of the National Emergency Command Post afloat on the USS WRIGHT. Captain Thigpen was Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Technical Training Center at Lakehurst, NJ. He completed his Navy career at NAS Pensacola on the Staff of the Naval Education and Development Office.

Captain Thigpen's decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Three Stars, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal with Two Stars, Philippine Liberation Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, the former Ann Brown of Pensacola; brother, Thomas Thigpen and his wife, Minta of Albuquerque, NM; brother, Charles Thigpen and his wife, Peggy of Greensboro, AL; daughter, Teresa Murray of Warwick, RI; Babette Konrad and her husband, Bill of Severna Park, MD; son, Frank Thigpen and his wife, Laurie of Brussels, Belgium; daughter, Patricia Watson and her husband, Brad of Franklin, TN; and nine grandchildren.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Lt. Cdr. William Andrews, Col. Velfort DeArmond, Capt. Hugh Lyon, Cdr. Lawrence Russo, Lt. Col. Malcolm Strickland, Capt. Cecil Vollmer, and Cdr. Marshall Whitehurst.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 from 5-7 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Funeral Home in Pensacola.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 1, 2004 at 10:45 a.m. at the All Faith Chapel, Pensacola Naval Air Station. Burial will follow at the Barrancas National Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Pensacola Flight 21 Scholarship Fund, Order of Daedalians, a National Fraternity of Military Pilots. Captain Thigpen served as Daedalian Flight 21 Captain in 1981 and also as Co-Chairman of the Annual Flight Scholarship Golf Tournament for many years. The mailing address is: Daedalian Flight 21, P.O. Box 33310, Naval Air Station, Pensacola FL 32508-3310.