

Family Tradition

Serving in the military was a tradition in the Ivey household. During World War II, Stewart Douglas Ivey's mother, Pam was a British Red Cross nurse volunteering with the US Army Air Force, serving as a flight nurse captain. Perhaps his mother's service factored into Ivey's decision to join the Navy.

Ivey entered Clemson from Candler, North Carolina, just west of Asheville, and was a member of the Class of 1973. Ivey seems only to have enrolled for his freshman year.



1986 found Ivey assigned to VA-42, a Navy attack squadron based at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia. VA-42 was the Atlantic Fleet's Readiness Squadron charged with training all east coast A-6 pilots, bombardier/navigators and A-6 maintenance personnel. The A-6 was manufactured by Grumman Aerospace and was a twin jet-engine, all weather attack aircraft. It was in service with the Navy and Marines from the early 60s until the late 90s. Ivey, now a lieutenant commander, was an instructor pilot with VA-42.

On February 3, 1986, Ivey was flying as the instructor with student pilot Lieutenant, junior grade Kevin Metzger on a night training mission. Student and instructor were flying over the Dare Bombing Range west of North Carolina's Outer Banks. The range served Navy fliers as an air-to-ground bombing range and was less than 80 air miles from Oceana. About an hour and a half after sunset, Metzger and Ivey's aircraft crashed four miles east of Alligator River. Both Metzger and Ivey were killed.

Stewart Douglas Ivey was married to his one-time Clemson classmate Diane Waters. He is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Candler, North Carolina.

