



KANSAS LEGEND BIOGRAPHY

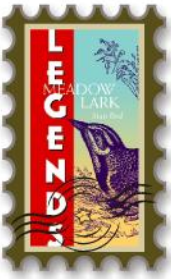
Ronald E. Evans (1933-1990)

Ronald Ellwin Evans, Jr., a St. Francis, Kan., native, is well remembered for his contributions to NASA's Apollo series missions during the 1960s and '70s. Additionally, he served his country during the Vietnam War as a captain of the U.S. Navy, was a family man, and started his own consulting firm in the coal industry after his tenure at NASA.



Evans graduated from Highland Park High School in Topeka, Kan. He went on to attend college at the University of Kansas, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1956. While at KU, Evans was a member of the Navy ROTC program and completed his flight training in 1957. In the years that followed, Evans served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, flying F-8 aircraft for seven months and as a combat flight instructor from 1961-1962.

In 1964, Evans received a Master of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School. While still serving in the Vietnam War, Captain Evans received notification he had been accepted into the astronaut program with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In 1966, he was one of 19 men inducted into NASA's astronaut program.



Evans served as a member of the astronaut support crews for Apollo 7 and Apollo 11 flights and as backup command module pilot for Apollo 14 before his first journey into space. The Apollo 17 mission, the last manned flight to the moon, took place in December 1972. For this flight, Evans served as command module pilot. During this mission, Evans spent nearly 302 hours in space, earning the record for most consecutive hours logged in space.

Additionally, Evans orbited the moon while his fellow crewmates explored the moon's surface. Evans was responsible for making geological observations, photography, and control of specified technical instruments while orbiting the moon aboard the America. Evans also spent 1 hour and 6 minutes in extravehicular activity during this trip, for which he holds the record.



After his memorable space flight, Evans served as backup command module pilot for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) mission in 1975. The following year, Evans retired from the U.S. Navy after 21 years of service and worked for NASA's Space Shuttle program, assisting with launch and ascent phases of the operations and training groups. In 1977, Evans retired from NASA.

Evans started his own consulting firm in the coal industry after retirement. He suffered a heart attack in 1990 and died at the age of 56 in Scottsdale, Ariz. a car accident.

