



Kerney Lee Sigler

July 23, 1919 - July 14, 2020

KERNEY LEE SIGLER

WWII Aviator Warrior Veteran

1919 2020

Kerney Sigler was born in Southern California July 23, 1919, and passed in Las Vegas, Nevada

July 14, 2020, 9 days short of his 101st birthday. To say he lived a long life is an understatement. And what a life it was! He attended San Jose State on a track & field scholarship having medaled in medium distance running between 1937-39, then cut his academic career short to answer America's call to defend the Free World against tyranny & aggression in Europe and Southeast Asia by enlisting in the Army Air Corp following the tragic events of Pearl Harbor on Dec 07, 1941. He trained & was commissioned to fly the Martin Marauder B-26 medium-range bomber, sailed as a First Lieutenant on the Queen Mary troop carrier to Scotland in 1943, and engaged the enemy out of Great Dunmow, England, where he flew 65 missions in the European theater with the 386th "Crusaders" Bombardment Group of the 9th Army Air Force...including leading a box of B-26's over Utah Beach on D-Day, the 6th of June 1944. He rose to status of Captain & Lead Pilot in the Crusaders, and led the group's last combat sortie over Germany before his tour of duty ended in late 1944.

Post WWII found him returning to Rhein Main, Germany with his wife and two young sons where he distinguished himself flying 75 sorties in C-54s during

the Berlin Airlift - the greatest humanitarian airlift in history -- between 1948-1951...this time against a different kind of "peacetime enemy" at the advent of the Cold War Era.

Upon retiring from military life in 1964 and rising through the ranks to Lt Colonel, he embarked upon a civilian aviation career in airline management and flew for regional carriers Skymark and Golden West Airlines in California between 1968-1982. He built his own home in Malibu, California and pursued his life-long quest as an aviator flying and maintaining his personal Bellanca Viking. He remained active in the Order of Quiet Birdmen and Order of Daedalians in his retirement, even through his affliction with Alzheimer's Dementia in later years.

He passed peacefully in the care of loving family members in Las Vegas. From the moment of his first flight in 1927 when his grandfather bought him a ticket as a child on a barnstorming Ford Tri-Motor, all Kerney ever wanted to do was fly. He was an avid, ardent Aviator and shall remain dear in our hearts as a stalwart example of a bygone time, distinguished hero of the "Greatest Generation," Defender of Freedom, Alpha Male Warrior, and Aviator par excellence. Even though he was flying within the fog that is Alzheimer's, he often inquired if there was a war in which he could participate. It was his time to Go West, and he taught us all how to die - and fly -- with dignity. Volabamus Volamus.

Kerney Lee Sigler is survived by his two sons Richard Sigler of Southern California, and Robert

Sigler of Las Vegas. He remained fully ambulatory as a 100-year-old combat veteran of WWII until a fall several weeks before his death deprived him of the ability to remain upright.

Interment ceremonies are scheduled Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at The Southern Nevada

Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, NV at 10am. Veterans and attendees are invited into the chapel for memoriam, followed by an Air Force Honor Guard Presentation and Gun Salute. Taps will follow. Attendance will

be limited.

Any flower arrangements should be sent directly to the cemetery.

Any donations to benefit the funding of careers by young aviators bound for service in the Armed Forces should be directed to Dennis Schaan, Adjutant Fighter Flight #62, Order of Daedalians at Nellis

AFB(flight62@daedalians.org), and / or Tony Romano, LAS Hangar Governor, Order of Quiet Birdmen (codefour_60@hotmail.com).

Tribute Wall



“ 7 files added to the album 152731



Affordable Cremation & Burial Service - January 29, 2025 at 11:17 AM

SB

“ We loved having Kerney join us for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. I remember flying with him over Santa Monica Beach and Hills many years ago. The Belanger Bunch wish you love and light. We know he's flying high.

Stacy, Peter, Chris, Luke, Lily Belanger - August 28, 2020 at 10:04 PM

IM

“ Kerney's life was the classic expression of the 'greatest generation'. A humble man who's life was full of heroic adventures and extraordinary accomplishments. I am thankful to have gotten to know him a little more in his latter years. Kerney, thank you for your service and your extraordinary contributions to this world. You will be sorely missed!

Ian McLaughlin - August 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM

RM

“ Over the past 7 or 8 years it was truly a pleasure getting to chat with Kearney during Christmas gatherings. He would often stand up out of his chair to shake my hand goodbye. His firm grip always left me somewhat awe struck, that a man of his age could possess such physical strength. I can only imagine his soul to be equally as strong.

Ryan McLaughlin - August 13, 2020 at 07:36 PM

PM

“ Kerney was the ultimate caregiver. He took such wonderful care of my mother-in-law. He did so with much love and kindness. Our family was blessed to have him. With his military service to our country, his caregiving, and much more he leaves behind a Lasting Legacy!

Peggy Martin - August 10, 2020 at 02:19 PM

AH

“ Kerney, you will be greatly missed! Thanks for being such a great caregiver, so kind and loving. From teaching me to play cards to caring for Nana for so many years. I have such great memories from over the years. We all wish we could leave such a big impact in this world!

Alyssa Hause - August 10, 2020 at 01:57 PM

CM

“ As a step-son, my memories of Kerney with my mother are dear and loving. I was grateful to share the love they had for each other and in old age they were cute together sharing many stories of travel and other adventures. We shared many hours together when they lived in No. CA, talking about many personal experiences and his airplane pictures and other memorabilia. I felt his love for flying as he shared hours of flying stories as well as his love of family. He was so proud to show us his newly built home in Malibu and i spent many hours enjoying it with him. He never gave up wanting to start a business or run a business from winning and then ultimately selling an alcohol sales license to an airline company. I am inspired with my memory of Kerney which gives me a strong sense of honor, patriotism, heroism, family ties, discipline and commitment to ideals.

Craig Martin - August 10, 2020 at 01:43 PM

H(

“ Thanks for being a standout grandfather, Kerney. I'll always have happy memories of bats in the swimming pool in Malibu and orange marmalade at the breakfast table. You were gentle and loyal and kind and fun. I loved the short stories you would type and mail to me. Thanks for taking excellent care of my Nana and I loved having you at my wedding in 2013. I love and miss you.

Hilary Hendershott (Martin) - August 10, 2020 at 11:09 AM

SM

“ What an amazing life you lead. You will be dearly missed.

Shannon McLaughlin - August 08, 2020 at 05:54 PM

RS

“ Dad, missing you and thanks for being such a big part of our lives. Rick, Peetie, and family

Rick Sigler - August 08, 2020 at 01:44 PM