



## Wayne Steele Elkin

February 12, 1924 - May 26, 2013

Past away peacefully in Santa Barbara, CA on May 26, 2013. He was born February 12, 1924 in Hots Springs, AR. to Walter and Olive Elkin. He had a younger brother "Gib" and an older sister "Elaine", who are all now deceased. Wayne was raised at various Army posts, settling in Santa Barbara in 1940 when his father was assigned to Hoff Army General Hospital. Shortly after graduating from Santa Barbara High School in 1942 he joined the Army Air Corps and served with the 8th Air Force in England participating in the massive bombing raids over Germany. On his 10th mission he was shot down, captured, and remained a POW in Germany during the latter part of the war.

Following the war he attended UCSB under the GI Bill of Rights. It was during that time that he met the love of his life, the lovely Martha Chard, a 7th generation Santa Barbarian. (If there ever was a match made in Heaven it was theirs, as they adored each other). They were married June 3, 1950.

Only three weeks after their wedding the Korean War broke out and he returned to military service with the Air Force. He remained on active duty as a Regular officer with the Strategic Air Command during the Cold War years and Martha assumed the role in life as a military wife. They had two children, Wayne Jr. and Carmen, both born at military facilities. Martha made a home wherever they were assigned, but would return to Santa Barbara with the children whenever dependent travel was not authorized, e.g. Vietnam, Artic duty, etc. After 26 years of active duty and service in three wars, he retired from the Air Force and returned to Santa Barbara permanently.

For the next 15 years he worked in real estate locally. In 1988, he quit real estate, and he and Martha enjoyed 15 wonderful years of full retirement. They particularly enjoyed family gatherings, grand-parenting, ball-room dancing, and traveling.

In 2003 after a 53 year blissful marriage, Martha passed away. Although he choose to live independently, he maintained close contact with everyone in the family, and was always part of every family gathering.

He is survived by his son, Wayne Elkin Jr. (Wendy) and granddaughter Genevieve Khosrowmanesh (Kasraa), all of Mill Valley CA.; his granddaughter Courtney Mohler (George) and great granddaughter Violet, all of San Jose, CA; and his daughter Carmen Finck (Bill) and grandchildren Brian, Jeannette, and Michelle Finck all of Santa Barbara,

CA.

Rosary at Welch-Ryce-Haider downtown location is Saturday, June 1st at 3PM. A Funeral Mass is to be held at St. Raphael Church, Monday, June 3rd at 10AM.

Contributions may be made in his memory to St. Raphael Church or to the Santa Barbara Nurse/Hospice Association.



# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Wendy - June 05, 2013 at 12:33 PM



“ Here is Wayne and Wayne Jr. waiting for baby Carmen to arrive. Is that a Bible in his chuby little hands? I miss my dad but I do believe I'll see him later as his last words to me were "I don't want to say good by I want to say see you later"

Wayne - October 28, 2013 at 04:02 PM

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“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Wendy - June 05, 2013 at 12:36 AM

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“ 44 files added to the album Grandpa Elkin



Wendy - June 04, 2013 at 11:40 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Wendy - June 04, 2013 at 11:38 PM

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“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Wendy - June 04, 2013 at 11:19 PM

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“ Remembering Lt. Col. Wayne S. Elkin, Sr.  
Grandpa - written by Grand Daughter, Courtney Elkin Mohler

I am honored and humbled to have been asked to speak about my grandfather amidst so many of his loved ones. You are a testament to one of his many gifts – the ability to connect with others, to listen and share stories of the heart. He was an incredible storyteller, which was in no small part due the fact that he lived such a rich and full life. (Also, he loved to talk).

Only when asked, he shared stories about his years of active military service in the Army Air Corps and as an officer in the US Air Force. As some of you know he served as a bombardier in World War II. On his tenth mission his plane was shot down, he was captured and held as a Prisoner of War in Germany for the remainder of the war. But only after he risked his own life to rescue a fellow fallen soldier, whose life he saved. My grandfather's Depression-era work ethic, intelligence and ambition made him highly successful in his two chosen professions; he served as an officer in the Air Force for 26 years, retiring with honor as a Lt. Col. in 1973. He went on to be a successful real estate broker here in Santa Barbara. He could be a shrewd and ambitious businessman, but he took great pride in always being honest and forthright in every transaction.

Like many men and women from his generation, my grandfather was a man of great character; but his character was complex and full of delightful contradictions:

He was a true war hero, but not a blind patriot.  
A dedicated soldier who was, at heart, anti-war.

He was wise. But also wise-cracking. His zany, quick wit could catch you off guard and some of his more “off color jokes” would elicit the response of “Grandpa!” from his relatively more politically correct granddaughters. But only after they made us smile, in spite of ourselves.

He was perhaps the hardest working person you'd ever meet. But he never missed

an opportunity to chat it up, slow down and enjoy the important things in life. Like slow dancing with his wife in the kitchen, barefoot in their robes, humming an Ella Fitzgerald song.

Or driving all night, at 87 years old, to meet his first great-grandchild on the day she was born.

A man gifted with ability and intelligence, Grandpa was truly logical, methodic in accounting and property management. Yet there was no greater romantic.

Recounting his life's adventures in his later years, Grandpa would always return to the same point: "Family is everything." He put utmost importance on his role as husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, considering his greatest accomplishment to be his marriage, which he figured directly, resulted in eight lives, four marriages and one engagement.

Anyone who knew my Grandpa and Nana will tell you that they had an amazing marriage. Their's was the kind of love we all admire: full of old-fashioned romance, shared interests, and a healthy amount of fighting, but totally unconditional and totally all-encompassing. His romantic nature and dedication to love and marriage was infectious. Its influence can be seen in the tenderness that characterizes Carmen and Bill's marriage, the tenacity and joy shared between my parents Wendy and Wayne Jr., the mutual respect and adoration expressed daily between Genna and Kasraa.

Nothing made Grandpa happier than watching his grandchildren grow and begin to make families of their own.

He was so touched when his only grandson Brian, a romantic like him, asked to use the engagement ring he had used over sixty years ago to propose to our Nana, to ask his fiancé Kiana's hand in marriage. And, of course, Kiana was equally as moved.

Grandpa also had a central role in my marriage to my wonderful husband George. I had been staying with him here in Santa Barbara when I was struck by a car and badly injured. Grandpa opened his home to me for five months, accommodated me in a wheel chair, and provided me with nursing care, comfort and company. He even gave me his bedroom, which had the hospital bed, and slept i

Wendy - June 04, 2013 at 11:14 PM

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“ We will miss the Col. forever, he was the nicest, most sincere, gentle, honest, trustworthy person you would ever want to know. My life has been made greater by knowing him. He was so wonderful, he left us his only son who is so much like him, in all the best of Wayne Sr. ways.

Laurel Boshco - June 04, 2013 at 09:03 PM



“ Thank you Laurel and Thanks to all that knew and loved him. He had a life well worth celebrating. W.S. Elkin Jr.

**Wayne Elkin Jr.** - June 04, 2013 at 10:52 PM



“ My dad was truely a one of a kind a man. A man I always looked up to. A man who always expressed sincere words and actions for my well being and the well being of all his family. Aunty La La he sure enjoyed you and all the sweet things you made for him..

**Wayne** - October 28, 2013 at 04:18 PM