



## Alexis Witmer

July 15, 1916 - December 25, 2012

Alexis Witmer, 96, died on December 25, 2012 “Al” was born in Sebastopol, Russia in 1916. He arrived at Ellis Island and after a short stay in New England his family took up residence in Santa Barbara where he lived most of his life. Lieutenant Colonel Witmer was a career officer in the U.S. Air Force after serving in the Merchant Marines. He logged over 10,000 hours as a navigator and served in WWII, Korea and Viet Nam during his career. Al returned to Santa Barbara in 1970 after retiring from the Air Force and pursued his lifelong passions of surfing and sailing and added the sport of skiing when he was in his late 70s. He was dearly beloved by his family. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marie (Valentine), son Charlie and daughters Liana and Patricia as well as 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. A private burial is scheduled. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association ([alz.org](http://alz.org)) are requested.

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ A man who was always present and accounted for in word and deed. An ever present example of strength, compassion and integrity. It was an honor to know him and be at his memorial. May God continue to bless and keep the Witmer family. Thank you for sharing his legacy.

David Pu'u - January 04, 2013 at 10:24 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



David Pu'u - January 04, 2013 at 10:21 PM

RB

“ I am saddened at the loss of another of my "Santa Barbara Heroes." On behalf of the Commemorative Air Force Oral History program, I interviewed Alexis in January, 1995 in regard to his World War II service. My records show that he did not want a copy of the tape, but I would be happy to transfer this interview to a CD and give it to any interested family member. I can be reached at labcats@verizon.net or 962-1452. Bob Burtness. P. S. I interviewed his brother, Andy, at about the same time.

Robert Alan Burtness - January 04, 2013 at 07:32 PM

PG

I am Patty Witmer Alex Witmer daughter I would very much like a copy of this interview

patricia m garcia - April 26, 2018 at 11:40 AM

JM

“ He was your dad, your granddad, your great granddad, my grandad, your friend....when you think of the word granddad, literally, it means GRAND DAD, which he truly was. He was my hero, my idol....I wanted to be just like him....at 10 years old I had to have the same black leather tri-folded wallet (which I still have, even though when it went through the wash and was tattered and gramie wanted to throw it away, I wouldn't), and the same neon swooshed nikes, both of which gramie drove me all over santa Barbara to find. This great man took me boogie boarding, golfing, (golf ball hunting near the gack goons), to play tennis, to Dodger games, to ride the roller coasters at Magic Mountain (which he absolutely loved!), and to the channel islands on some of the most incredible trips ever! Grandad was a loyal, honest, fair, family man, who loved everyone in his family and beamed every time he spoke to me, about of each of you, as I was getting updates about family, while I was all the way back here in Iowa. Look around at our family and know that without granddad none of you would be here and be the special people you are! The week since his passing has been a struggle, thinking about all of the memories and knowing that I can't share them with him again. I try to reconcile it with the fact that he lived to be 96, travelled the world, fought for his country, and enjoyed all of the wonderful hobbies that he had, for as long as he did. I know each of you has special memories of granddad, hang onto them and when you're feeling down, think of some of those times, and it will make you smile. Grandad, I am truly going to miss you....the story telling, the sound effects that go to the story....all of the things that we did together.....gosh I could go on and on with all of the great memories that are swirling through my head....just know, I love you and God Bless you.....John Montgomery

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John Montgomery - January 04, 2013 at 09:42 AM

Jl

“ My uncle Al was the last of the three Witmer children to cross over. He was a patriot who served his nation honorably in three wars. He was the rock of the Witmer family for many many years. He was the Witmer child most like his mother as he possessed all of her character and mannerisms. I do not know of anyone in my extended family that was admired, respected, and loved more than my Uncle Al. He was an absolute joy to be around yet at the same time he always offered great advice and wisdom about life. He was a tremendous influence on my life and that of my siblings and my own children. He enjoyed life to the fullest and was always active in pursuing his joys of surfing, sailing, and hanging out with his children and grandchildren. The greatest treasure in his life was his wonderful soulmate Val. All of the Campbell family will miss him greatly. I am a most blessed man to have had him as my uncle. God bless him and all of the Witmer clan.

*Jimmy Campbell*

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**James Holmes Campbell III** - January 03, 2013 at 04:50 PM

SL

“ Sherry Lutz lit a candle in memory of Alexis Witmer



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**Sherry Lutz** - January 02, 2013 at 10:59 PM

SL

*Oh Al...how I will miss our hugs...forever you will live in my heart and the hearts of all who had the honor of knowing you. I will always love you...Sherry*

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**Sherry Lutz** - January 02, 2013 at 11:00 PM

ND

“ Dear Lee, Charlie and Patty,  
Al was a wonderful friend to our family. He and Jim enjoyed many sailing adventures from Fred Bosbyshell's boat in the '30's to racing Nicole in the 90's. My sincere sympathy to all of you.  
Love, Nancy Dupuis

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**Nancy Dupuis** - January 02, 2013 at 05:52 PM

JD

“ I met Alex in Jan 1969 when I was assigned to the 1MAS, Dover AFB, DE. On my first instruction/checkout flight/trip in the C-133A he taught me about surfing at Waikiki Beach. Also introduced me to the BCC [Beer Can Cannon]. He was a great leader, officer and friend. I will continue to think of him often.  
Jim Dunn

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**James Dunn** - January 02, 2013 at 10:01 AM

CD

“ Dear Lee, Charlie and Pat,  
I met your dad when I hung out with Lee in SB. I'll never forget his amazing eyes, kind energy and vitality as a septuagenarian. He was the rock of your family and took care of everyone with thoughtful patience. I feel fortunate to have crossed his path however briefly it was.  
With Love, Carol Donald

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**Carol Donald** - January 01, 2013 at 01:37 PM

GL

My deepest sympathy, I served with the good Colonel on C-133A Transport Aircraft in the late 60's and found him to be an outstanding Officer and Gentleman. He will be missed. RIP

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**Gerald "Jerry" Coleman, Loadmaster** - January 02, 2013 at 02:22 PM

AW

*Thanks to all of you who shared a little about my father. He loved all of you. Rest well knowing he lived well and only wanted the best for others. He spoke well of all of his friends in fact I don't think I ever heard him speak ill of anyone. He served in WW II and Korea in Air combat and Flew support missions during Viet Nam yet never harbored any ill will toward those "enemies" after the conflict was over. He respected the military men on both sides of the conflicts. I loved the time I spent sailing, skiing, and being with him during his retirement years as well as assisting in his care when his health declined. He was definitely an "adapt and overcome" type of guy whenever he was thrown a curve. 64 years of marriage to the same woman. We will miss him. I love you Dad. Charlie Witmer*

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**Alexis Charles Witmer** - January 02, 2013 at 09:58 PM

LD

*I was fortunate to become Al's dentist in 1977 and the caretaker of his terrific smile. What a GREAT patient he was, always the gentleman with a joke or two to share when he came in and sometimes a bottle of wine.. He took the same fastidious care of his teeth as he did the rest of his appearance. He always requested having his dental treatment done WITHOUT numbing and never flinched! He couldn't imagine why anyone would need novacaine! When I became interested in sailing, Al took me out for some lessons. I remember when he took up skiing and how excited he was to ski with his grandchildren and I decided that's the kind of grandpa I wanted to be to my four grandkids. He was always upbeat, even after having a stroke and was quick with a smile and laugh. I'll miss Al but will never forget him! I look forward to seeing him again.*

*Larry Basham, DDS*

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**Larry Basham, DDS** - January 04, 2013 at 07:53 PM