



Stewart Arthur Kunkee

October 18, 1922 - September 12, 2011

Stewart was born on October 18, 1922 in Atascadero, CA. to Azor and Edith Kunkee.

He passed away peacefully at Mission Terrace on September 12, 2011. After graduating from Atascadero High School, Stewart joined the U.S. Navy, became a fighter pilot, and served in the Pacific. After WWII he was in the Navy Reserve.

In the 1950's he worked as a cropduster and trucker. He was among the pioneers of the Air Tanker field in the late 1950's, and served the western states for the next 30 years as an Air Tanker Pilot. Stewart was dedicated to fighting forest fires.

Stewart was a loving husband, father, brother and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife Ruby, brother Ralph; children Ron, Marlana, and Patrick; and grandchildren Danika, Jake, Anja and Nora.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

199 North Hope Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805) 687-8811
http://www.archdiocese.la/directories/cemeteries/info.php?cemetery_id=3

Tribute Wall

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“ Words of Wisdom... "when Stu was flying out of Paso Robles, as the Forest Service was providing lunch, he was heard to say **THIS IS GONNA BE THE HIGH POINT OF THE DAY!**"

One of his pet peeves.... " mechanics leaving a greasy footprint on his parachute" (when getting into the F7 cockpit)

Also, Stu would always announce that "This is great,...the mechanics have just gotten here to work on my airplane, and the first thing they do is take a break!"

Stu was a valued pilot, (and a character). He will always be remembered with a smile.

*-Norman Stubbs,
TBM, Inc., Visalia, California*

Norman Stubbs - September 14, 2011 at 02:58 PM