

Lt Col Glen Hatley

27 November 1926 – 18 May 2010

Glen passed away on May 18th, 2010, joining his wife Mel in Heaven on their 58th wedding anniversary. Born November 27, 1926, in Bellingham, WA to Arthur and Effie Hatley, Glen spent his childhood years in the Palo Alto-Menlo Park area.

In 1944, he graduated from Sequoia High School in Redwood City, where he excelled in track & field as a high jumper. As a young man, he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad, Western Pipe and Steel Company, Sutter Cannery, and bottled whiskey at General Distillers Ltd. Towards the end of World War II, he served as a Merchant Marine.

Glen attended San Jose State University in 1947. That same year, he earned his pilot license at Palo Alto Airport. He was a founding member of the SJSU Aqua Ski Club and shuttled members of the club to Clear Lake in a seaplane. They fabricated their own wooden water skis and sometimes used the seaplane to pull water-skiers.

He joined the Air Force and met Amelda Ruth Crowley at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento, where she was working as a secretary to the base commander. Glen served in Korea where he flew B-26 attack bombers on low-level night missions. He also served as a forward observer and was voted “least likely to return” by his fellow fly-boys as he flew so close to the ground.

But he did return to marry Amelda on May 18, 1952, in Palo Alto. The newlyweds traveled to stations in Delaware and Georgia before settling in Mountain View, California, in 1955, where they lived and raised a family for 53 years. Glen joined the Air National Guard in 1955, serving in the 129th Air Rescue Group until he retired in 1977 as squadron commander.

Glen continued studies at SJSU in Electronic Engineering and worked as an analog engineer and later as a design engineer for Sierra Electronics, Sylvania, and then GTE Government Systems for more than 30 years.

His post-retirement years were full of adventure - exploring the Northwest Passage on a Russian icebreaker, climbing Yosemite’s Half Dome, and bungee jumping in New Zealand at age 70. He was a brilliant engineer and inventor, a fearless pilot, and an avid Ham radio operator. He enjoyed playing bridge, dancing, fishing, flying, hiking, bird-watching and traveling the world.

Glen was a wonderful, loving husband and father, and enjoyed his role as a fun Grandpa. He spent 56 years of happiness with wife Mel, until Alzheimer’s robbed him of his memory. Mel cared for him until her death in January 2009. His last year was spent at Barrington Court Memory Care in Danville where the staff treated him with respect and kindness.

The family will scatter his ashes, along with Mel’s, off the Kona Coast in Hawaii where they spent many happy times together. Glen is survived by his children, Barbara (James) Fiksdal, Elayne (Patrick) Pedley, Jeffrey (Monica) Hatley, his brother Arden (Elizabeth) Hatley, sister-in-law Judy Eddy, grandchildren Trisha, Laura and Brendan Pedley and Monica’s children Toni and Austin and nephews Doug and Stan. Funeral services were May 27, 2010, at First Christian Church, Palo Alto, CA. A reception followed at the same location.

Memorial donations may be made to: Alzheimer’s Assoc, 225 N. Michigan Ave, 17th floor, Chicago IL 60601 www.alz.org; or Audubon Society, 225 Varick St, 7th floor, New York, NY 10014 www.audubon.org

