



## Francis Sikorski

June 12, 1918 - May 9, 2014

Lt. Colonel Francis Sikorski, 95 years old died on 9 May 2014. Francis resided in Mt. Gilead Place, Murrells Inlet, SC for 25 years. He is survived by his three children, Thomas Sikorski in Thailand, Gale McGregor in Virginia and Barbara Cook in Massachusetts. He has 4 grandchildren and one great-grand daughter.

Ruth Sikorski, wife, past away April 2008. Frank will be cremated and will join his wife in Quantico National Cemetery.

Frank was a Pearl Harbor Survivor.

On 7 December 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Kenohoe Naval Base, Hickam Air Base and his home base Wheeler Airfield where most Island P-40 fighter (Fi) aircraft were stationed and parked in aircraft hangers or on the tarmac. The bombing of living quarters and strafing caused injuries to Francis and other ground personnel. As an anti-aircraft mechanic on the destroyed P-40(Fi) Aircraft, he continued work on replacement aircraft arriving from stateside. In late 1942 Francis was selected for Officer Candidate School (OCS) where he graduated in 1943.

Francis' first assignment was with the 329 Fi squadron as maintenance officer for the P-39 Cobra Fi Aircraft at Oakland CA Airport. He also attended indoctrination courses on the P-39 Cobra at the Bell Aircraft Plant in Niagara

Falls NY.

After returning to California from NY with the 329 Fi Squadron aircrafts he had missions in Tonopah NV and Concord CA. He was then promoted to 1st Lt and transferred to the 85th Fighter Wing as Assistant Material Officer. In 1944 he was shipped with the fighter wing to New Guinea in the Pacific war zone.

After many months with the fighter wing supporting fighter aircraft groups and Fi squadrons in the combat zones he assumed additional duties as loading officer for the 85th Fi wing on landing craft (LST) in the participation of the invasion of Leyte in the Philippines on D-4 Day . During LST unloading daily early morning Japanese ???Kamikaze??? aircraft bombed the US Naval fleet in the Leyte Gulf and on on invasion LST's on the shoreline unloading vehicles and equipment resulted in personnel injuries from strafing.

In 1944 Frank was promoted to Captain. Following many months in the combat zones with the 85th Fi wing he was transferred to the HQ 35th fighter group on Okinawa as logistics officer. When the war ended in 1945, short of 2 years in the Pacific, Frank returned stateside to continue his logistics career.

Frank was transferred to Selfridge AFB, MI. His first mission was to the port of Seattle, WA as the Selfridge AFB coordinator and monitor for Air Force depot shipments of equipment and supplies for P-51 aircraft. He accompanied this support equipment by vessel to Fairbanks, Alaska AFB. P-51 aircraft coming in from Selfridge AFB would stay there for three months participating in cold weather test for operations capabilities.

Following these tests all personnel flew back to Selfridge, AFB. Frank was transferred to Government Aircraft Plant No.1 (GAP 1) at the former aircraft bomber plant at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. His assignment was Chief Accountable Property and Warehousing Officer for over 77 million dollars of longtime

storage of preserved machine tools and equipment prepositioned in the bomber plant in case of war or emergencies.

Following this three year assignment, as a Major, he was transferred to Johnson Air Base in Japan where he took command of the base supply squadron and services squadron. Following this tour Frank returned stateside for other logistic assignments.

Eventually Francis returned to Okinawa Japan with assignment to the HQ 313th Air Division as Chief of Supply and Services. Frank was promoted to Lt. Colonel during this assignment. He was tasked by 5th Air Force in Japan to take on rotary duty at Bien-Hou Airfield in Vietnam with responsibilities for Logistic support for stationed reconnaissance aircraft performing secret missions in Vietnam. Upon completion of his Rotary assignment in Vietnam, he returned to his previous position with the 313th Air Division.

In January 1963 he returned stateside and was transferred to Plattsburgh AFB, NY. Frank's new position was Base Deputy Commander for Materials. On 1 December, 1963, he retired from the United States Air Force after 23 years of service.

Frank continued his career as a civil servant in the Washington, D. C area for an additional 20 plus years then retiring to golf heaven in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He had a long, full fruitful life and will be missed terribly.

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Please accept my deepest sympathy. May you find comfort from your memories, as well as God's word the bible. Why do people we love die? Romans 5:12 says: "That is why, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned." How loving of God to promise what is found at Revelation 21:4 which says, "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”

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**A. Bell** - May 28, 2014 at 01:37 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Sarah Christian** - May 12, 2014 at 10:29 AM

MB

“ I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Sikorski family. May those precious memories of your dear loved one Francis be foremost in your hearts and minds along with this wonderful promise that Jesus made at John 5:28,29. Again, my sincere condolences.

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**M B** - May 12, 2014 at 06:43 AM

TC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Tom Cook** - May 11, 2014 at 07:25 AM

TF

“ *A wonderful father and a hell of a golfer!*



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**Tom & Frances** - May 11, 2014 at 05:14 AM

WU

“ *RIP Veteran !!!!*



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**Wayne Williams - USMC** - May 10, 2014 at 08:44 PM

BC

*Thank you Wayne.*

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**Barbara Cook** - May 11, 2014 at 04:16 AM