



Roger Allen Sorensen

December 6, 2009

Colonel Roger (Rog) Allen Sorensen, USAF Retired, age 69, passed away at his home in Murrells Inlet on Sunday, December 6, 2009. Rog, the second child of Marvin L. Sorensen and Lenore Braun Sorensen, was born in December 1940, in Nicollet, MN. The family later moved to St. James, MN, where he graduated from high school. It was in St. James where he met his partner for life, Ella Mae (Elly) Johnson. At a very young age Rog already knew what his life's vocation would be. He wanted to be a fighter pilot. He received an appointment to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Shortly after graduation he and Elly were married on June 22, 1963. He received a Masters Degree in Aerospace Management in 1968 from the University of Southern California and graduated from the National War College in 1976. As with most career military personnel, Rog and Elly saw the world together, except during his remote tour in Vietnam where he flew 131 combat missions. His career took him to Enid, OK; Tucson, AZ; Apple Valley, CA; Vietnam; Germany; Montgomery AL; Springfield, VA; Okinawa, Japan; The Philippines; Las Vegas, NV; Tampa, FL; Myrtle Beach, SC; and Austin, TX. It was during his tour in Myrtle Beach that he served as the Wing Commander of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing. During his illustrious military career, Rog earned the following honors and medals: Silver Star; Legion of Merit; Distinguished Flying Cross (2); Meritorious Service Medal (3); Air Medal (9); Joint Service Commendation Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Presidential

Unit Citation (2); Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor; Air Force Combat Readiness Medal (2); National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon (5); Marksmanship Ribbon; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Rog retired from the Air Force on May 31, 1986, and he and Elly moved to their home in Mount Gilead in Murrells Inlet. Not one to sit idle very long, Rog later formed his own airplane sales company, Sun Air Sales which was headquartered at Ramp 66 in North Myrtle Beach. He never lost his love of flying. An avid outdoorsman, Rog enjoyed fishing, boating, golf, and his annual pheasant hunting trip to South Dakota. While he enjoyed his hobbies, Rog truly loved two things...his family and his country! Both will miss him deeply. Rog is survived by his wife Elly of Murrells Inlet; daughter Jennifer (Kevin) Kaylor of Pawleys Island; and three grandchildren, Christopher Kaylor, Caroline Kaylor, and Jackson Kaylor of Pawleys Island. Additional survivors are his brother, Bob (Anne) Sorensen, of St. James, MN, and his sister, Jan (Doug) Hart, of Mount Pleasant, SC. Rog was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin and Lenore Sorensen, of St. James, MN, and by a daughter, Chris Ellen Sorensen. A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, December 12th, at 10:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach, with the Rev. Bobby Wilkes officiating. The family will receive friends immediately following the service at the church. Graveside Services will be held at 11a.m. Friday, January 29, 2010 at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 1306, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578; or to Happy Wheels, 1400 Madison Court, Mount Pleasant, SC 29466 (a charity benefitting the MUSC Children's Hospital). An online guestbook is available at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com Goldfinch Funeral Home, Murrells Inlet, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ (ran out of space) If there is anything I can do up here to help set up the committal at Arlington, let me know. Love to you all, Pastor Ralph##imported-begin##Pastor Ralph Wiechmann##imported-end##

December 16, 2009 at 09:13 PM



“ Elly and Jennifer: "Home for Christmas" - I thank God for taking Rog home for Christmas, but I also thank God that He has promised to be with you at this great loss in your life. Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" Peace!!##imported-begin##Pastor Ralph Wiechmann##imported-end##

December 16, 2009 at 09:10 PM



“ Rog and I were stationed together at Hahn AB, Germany, although in different squadrons. It's always sad to see another comrade fly into the sunset.##imported-begin##R. Y. Costain##imported-end##

December 15, 2009 at 10:39 PM



“ Mrs. Sorenson and Family: I am so shocked and saddened to hear of Roger's passing. I found out this weekend from a fellow patient and want you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all. I truly loved Rog and listening to all his wonderful stories. I will miss him dearly and hope you know that he was an inspiration to so many people for his strength and determination. God Bless!##imported-begin##Shanna White##imported-end##

December 15, 2009 at 12:42 PM



“ I wish to express my condolences to Roger's wife, Elly and daughter. He was a very special person and left quite a legacy. I am the daughter of Erivin & Evelyn Wright. Mom was a first cousin to grandpa Marvin. My love and sympathy...hang onto your memories. Eunice Wiederhoeft##imported-begin##Eunice (Wright) Wiederhoeft##imported-end##

December 15, 2009 at 12:22 PM



“ Elly, Jennifer and Family--We were saddened to hear of Roger's passing. Our meeting at Hahn and through the years Roger was always the True Gentleman. We will miss his wit and friendly smile. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this challenging time. Respectfully, Tim and Barb Roels##imported-begin##TIM AND BARB ROELS##imported-end##

December 14, 2009 at 07:19 PM



“ Elly and family: Rog was a wonderful classmate and member of the Class Committee for 1963. He was instrumental in helping acquire 'the cups'. As an 8th Winger, we spent Ubon time together. 22 June is our anniversary as well. Will miss him. John and Myrna Borling###imported-begin##John Borling###imported-end##

December 14, 2009 at 01:29 PM



“ Roger Sorensen was always a beacon of strength and honesty and loyalty to me. And a good fighter pilot. We were in next door squadrons at the zoo and were stationed together at Davis-Montham (TDY), George, Ubon and Hahn flying F-4s. We shared many good times. I am proud to have been his friend. All my love to Elly and the family. Joe Lee###imported-begin##Joe Lee Burns###imported-end##

December 14, 2009 at 11:39 AM



“ Please know that my prayers are with the Sorensen family. I am thankful for getting to know Roger. He was an inspiration to me early in my flying career and a great help of encouragement, advice and direction when I needed it most. God bless him for his being the man he was and for his service to our country.###imported-begin##Tom Bishop###imported-end##

December 13, 2009 at 10:36 PM



“ Elly, Jennifer and Jan, We were so surprised and saddened by the passing of Roger when we read about it in our paper tonight. He was a large and constant presence in your lives and will forever leave a void, but lessons of life and memories from your bonds will help to sustain you. Strength is one of your many qualities though, and you will need it in dealing with the loss. Our thoughts and prayers reach out to you at this tough time. Call if you need us. Love to all, June and Lyle###imported-begin###Lyle and June Wright###imported-end##

December 11, 2009 at 06:06 PM



“ My condolences to Roger's family and friends. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.###imported-begin###Marris Rooney###imported-end##

December 10, 2009 at 07:27 PM



“ Elly, My prayers are with you and Roger. I will always have the fondest memories of him at Hahn. He was a great fighter pilot but more importantly he was a Man. Jag###imported-begin###Charles Jaglinski###imported-end##

December 10, 2009 at 10:16 AM



“ *Elly, Jennifer, Kevin and family; We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. Although we weren't together often, the memories I have of Roger and our times together, are all so very wonderful and full of laughter. He will be missed. I am so sorry we cannot be there with you on Saturday. You will remain in our thoughts and prayers in the difficult days, weeks and months ahead. May God bless and keep you close. We love you all, Kristen, Joe, Izzie and Easton##imported-begin##Kristen & Joe Zueger##imported-end##*

December 09, 2009 at 04:47 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Elly and the Sorensen family. Fond memories of our times together at Hahn AB, Germany, and thereafter will be ever lasting. God bless.##imported-begin##Larry Desch##imported-end##*

December 09, 2009 at 11:20 AM



“ *Elly, Jennifer and Family...I was so saddened to hear of Rogers passing. Please accept our deepest sympathy..I will always remember the little laughs I had with him this past summer, when he was here in Minnesota..Marvy told me many times what a "GREAT MAN" Roger was, and how proud of him he was..You are in our thoughts and prayers!! Love From Minnesota~~~Linda Resick and Keith Bloomquist##imported-begin##Linda Resick##imported-end##*

December 08, 2009 at 07:00 PM



“ Jan and Doug, When the Nation loses another patriot not only the family grieves, but all those who loved this country like he did. And just like your Dad, he was a man of action, contribution and service. The fabric of the community is weakened by his passing. May the love that surrounds you be a comfort during this time...##imported-begin##Geoff & Theresa Mann##imported-end##

December 08, 2009 at 04:19 PM



“ Elly, We are all thinking of you and your family. I will keep you in my prayers. Love, Carolyn##imported-begin##Carolyn Jones##imported-end##

December 08, 2009 at 10:30 AM



“ This such a shock in this morning's Sun News. I am in Las Vegas and won't be home until Dec 22. The last time I saw Roger, he was working on an airplane at Grand Strand. Please know that I am with you in my thoughts and prayers. Pete##imported-begin##Pete Winters##imported-end##

December 08, 2009 at 09:34 AM



“ I am so saddened to hear that Roger has passed away. I have always admired Roger and Elly and enjoyed working with them when I worked at the chamber. My deepest sympathy to Elly and your family. Marilyn Chewning##imported-begin##Marilyn O. Chewning##imported-end##

December 08, 2009 at 07:46 AM



“ I will miss roger. He was a great person to know. I always look forward to him coming to ramp. He was the 354th wing commander when I first arrive in mbafb. My prayers go out to his wife and family. GOD bless you all.##imported-begin##carlton hardee##imported-end##

December 07, 2009 at 10:15 PM



“ We have so many fond memories of Rog that will live on in us for the rest of our lives. He was a great Patriot and a wonderful Husband, Dad and Granddad, his legacy will live on through all of you. Our prayers are with you and may God bless you all! Len, Katey, Jen(Clark)Sadowski, and Amy##imported-begin##Len and Katey Clark##imported-end##

December 07, 2009 at 05:59 PM