

Obituary LT. COL. CARL HAMBY U.S. Air Force, Retired, 1932-2105

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Lt. Col. Carl L. Hamby, U.S. Air Force fighter pilot (ret.), passed away March 6, 2015, 11 days before his 83rd birthday, surrounded by family and friends. Carl was born Carl Lee Hamby, March 17, 1932, in Yuba, Okla., to Tom and Lottie Hamby. Carl's father died when he was three and Lottie moved the family, Carl and his sister, Mary, to southern California. Carl graduated from Santa Monica High School and enjoyed cars and the slide guitar and performed in a band during high school. Carl then went into the Air Force pilot training program and made the Air Force his career.

Carl married Caroline, who preceded him in death in 2003, and had three sons, Carl L. Jr., a realtor in Fort Mohave, Ariz., Mark, an attorney in Tulsa, Okla., and Gerald, who preceded Carl in death. In addition, Carl has two grandchildren, Carl L. III, of Boulder City, and Stephanie M. of Tacoma, Wash. Carl was also blessed with a great-granddaughter, Jordyn of Boulder City, now seven. Carl also looked forward to a second great-granddaughter who is due in June, Stephanie's first. Carl served two tours of duty in Vietnam and was a member of the "River Rats," those fighter pilots who completed 100 missions over North Vietnam. Carl retired after 25 years in Las Vegas, where the family lived during Carl's last assignment at Nellis AFB.

During his career, Carl flew F-105s in Vietnam and later taught young pilots to fly F-111s at Nellis. Carl had friends from the Air Force who lived all over, as well as friends made since retirement. In 1992, Carl and Caroline moved to Wickenburg, Ariz., where Carl pursued his love of classic cars, especially Hudsons, the car Carl loved in his youth. In 2004, Carl married Yolanda, who survives him and who provided him with a happy and contented final chapter in Carl's life. Yolanda was at Carl's side when he died. A Catholic Mass is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 11, at St. Anthony's in Wickenburg. Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 13, Boulder City Cemetery, 501 Adams Blvd.

Friends may offer online condolences at www.wickenburgfuneralhome.com
Arrangements under the direction of Wickenburg Funeral Home & Crematory, 187 N. Adams St., Wickenburg, AZ 85390, (928) 684-2081.