



Elbert E. Vogelsanger II

October 18, 2012

Elbert E. Vogelsanger II, 85, died Thursday, October 18, 2012 at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau, MO. He was born April 12, 1927 at St. Ann's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. His parents were Elbert E. Vogelsanger I and Opal M. Vogelsanger, now deceased. Elbert served in the United States Army during World War II and was discharged January 1948 from Camp Stoneman, California. He retired from McDonnell Aircraft Corporation in 1987 after 35 years of employment. He attended Parks College of Aeronautical Technology of St. Louis, University and graduated in 1952 with a degree in Aeronautical Administration. During his employment with McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, two of his assignments included Projects Mercury and Gemini in Cocoa Beach, Florida for seven years. The seven original astronauts and later ones were involved in those programs. Following that, he was sent to California for 13 years and was on a now declassified spy satellite program called Hexagon. He also spent two years in New York and shorter periods back in St. Louis. Another unusual assignment for Elbert included the Peace Sun Program in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 1980 to 1982. McDonnell sold 65 F-15 airplanes to the Saudi government and sent personnel to the country to teach them how to fly and maintain the planes plus provide management backup during that time. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Mary Sue (Finney) Vogelsanger who he married May 19, 1951 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Cape Girardeau, MO; two sons, John Francis and wife Cynthia Vogelsanger of San Jose, CA and Stephen William Vogelsanger of Santa Clara, CA;

grandchildren, Paul Ryan, Erin Michelle, James Eric; two step-grandsons, Sean and Steven Sczapanik. Friends may call Monday, October 22, 2012 from 2-6 p.m. at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home. A memorial mass will be held Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Old St. Vincent's Catholic Church with Father Tom Kiefer officiating. Inurnment will follow at New Lorimier Cemetery at the Mausoleum. Memorial contributions may be given to the Salvation Army, Old St. Vincent's Catholic Church, Southeast Missouri Hospital Hospice, or a charity of choice.

Tribute Wall

ML

“ Heartfelt condolences to you, Sue, and to your family, on passing of Sonny. I am so glad to have been able to meet him and experience his powerful personality. He was blessed to have you in his corner.

Mike Lawrence - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Uncle Sonny from my childhood. Every one of which includes Uncle Sonny's big smile and laughter and kind nature. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Aunt Sue.

John and Christine Futrell - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Aunt Sue, Sonny will be greatly missed by us. We are are so happy that our children Sterling and Marshall were able to get to know "Grandpa" Sonny and witness all the wonderful qualities that he possessed the way I did as a child. Sue you are, as always, in our thoughts and prayers.

Sam Finney and Family - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ Uncle Sonny was one of the kindest people I have had the honor of knowing. He brought smiles and laughter wherever he went. I am especially happy to have spent time with him in St. Louis 2 years ago when he came to visit with my family and I while we were in town. My heart breaks for Aunt Sue and their family, but his memory lives on in many many hearts.

Anne (futrell) Kenney - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Dad and I still talk about the great time we had in Las Vegas at Ruth's Chris, not to mention the good times in Florida. Sonny will be missed. Our prayers our with you. Chris & Steve

Chris & Steve Graves - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ It was fate ... Elbert and Sue who had previously lived in St. Louis just like I did happened to move into the house next door to me in Rocklin, California. We immediately had that special bond. I will never forget all of the wonderful times we shared, all of the laughter and, of course, Elbert's great smile and twinkle in his eyes. Sue, you are a very special lady and please know that you are always in my thoughts. Love, hugs and kisses - Sandi

Sandra F Knell - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Dear Sue, we are so sorry for your loss. We will always remember Sonny as the perfect gentleman that he was. We will keep you in our prayers and wishing you brighter days ahead. God bless you.

Joe & Sylvia Centeno - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Dear Sue, Though words are somewhat of a comfort for what you're now going through, please know how much you're being thought of and hoping your treasured memories will bring you the comfort and peace needed at this time. All our love, Ginny and Tom

Tom and Ginny Compton - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Dear Sue, Sons & Families: God has gained a beautiful soul in heaven. Your husband & Dad accomplished so much in his life. You can be very proud of him. May God bless each & everyone of you. Our deepest sympathy, Ron & Marge

Ron & Marge Seid - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Sue and to the rest of the family, we are so saddened to hear about the passing of your husband "Sonny". We will always remember him as a happy, fun-filled person and great family man. Though we are not able to attend the services, we pray that our Lord gives you and the family the strength to see you through these hard and sad time. We know that "Sonny" is in God's Kingdom without pain and young again. He has rejoined all the family members and is waiting to be reunited as a whole in the future. God bless you all. Rueben and Lupe Olivas and Family, Guam

Rueben and Lupe Olivas - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CQ

“ Dear Sue, we are so sorry for your loss. Sonny was such a wonderful person. May you be comforted by the many warm thoughts of those who care. God bless you.

Connie & Fred Quigley - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ Friday afternoon October 19, 2012 Dear Sue, I am so sad to hear about Sonny's death. You two were such a special couple, and you both were never anything but kind and wonderful to me. My thoughts and prayers are with you today and in the days to ahead. Carol Anne

Carol Eaker-Kranawetter - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“*"Sonny" was as close a friend as I have ever had. I'll miss our phone calls with Sonny's bright voice on the line. Sue, may God be with you during this time and may Sonny rest in peace. Love, Jim*

Jim Futrell - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LP

“*Sending the Vogelsanger family love and prayers. We loved Sunny and we will miss him...Thinking about you Sue...*

LISA PONCE - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM