

Alvin D. Ziskin



[Send Flowers](#)

[Share](#)

Alvin D. Ziskin 06/23/1918 ~ 05/20/2012 RANCHO SANTA FE -- On May 20, 2012, Alvin David Ziskin looked at Dorothy, his wife of 59 years, then closed his eyes for the last time. It was a peaceful end to 93 colorful years. A decorated World War II pilot, real estate entrepreneur, father of five, husband of one, golfer, skier, tennis player, bon vivant, raconteur - Al Ziskin lived life in the passing lane. He was the life of the party, an indomitable free spirit who thrived on action. For Al, the journey was always more interesting than the destination. Al was born in Sioux Falls, S.D., but grew up in Los Angeles. An aviation enthusiast at a young age, he attended the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Okla., eventually becoming a flight instructor. When the United States entered World War II, Al was commissioned as an officer in the Army Air Corps where he served in the Air Transport Command, flying combat aircraft to U.S. bases around the world. He became one of the famed "Hump" pilots who flew

the Himalayan Mountains from India to China to resupply U.S. and Chinese forces fighting the Japanese. Hump missions were extremely dangerous due to poor weather, unreliable charts, lack of navigation aids, and enemy fire. The aircraft were unpressurized, unheated, and often so overloaded they were unable to fly over the mountains, so pilots had to find routes through mountain passes. Due to the risk, pilots were generally limited to 50 Hump missions. Al re-upped and ultimately flew 110 missions. For his exemplary service, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with Clusters. Al met Dorothy Schaefer, an Air Force nurse, at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. They were married in 1953 and settled in Palm Springs, Calif., where they started a family and Al launched a successful career in real estate, brokering large land deals. In 1964, Al, Dorothy, and their five children moved to Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., where Al expanded his business interests and pursued his hobbies of golf, tennis, and cycling. He had a great love of the outdoors - hiking and skiing in the mountains of his beloved Sun Valley, Idaho, river rafting, swimming, or enjoying the beach at Del Mar. Al embodied the optimism and determination of a generation forged by the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, and the Fifties. A generation that not only surmounted but transcended the momentous challenges of its time, leaving a legacy of achievement, dedication, and sacrifice that will continue to inspire. Al is survived by Dorothy; his five children, Michael, Suzanne, Patricia, Barbara, and Peter; grandchildren, David Watts, Kelly Gray, Sarah Ziskin, and Rachel Ziskin; and brother, Herschel Ziskin. Contact: Michael Ziskin, michaeldz@q.com Sign the Guest Book online obits.nctimes.com

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Published in North County Times on Jun. 10, 2012.

Ziskin Pages

See more records on Ancestry

MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

What would you like to say about Alvin?

Not sure what to say? 

Add a photo

Your Name

Your Email Address

Your Relationship 

Get email updates for this page

Add Memory

[Posting Guidelines](#) | [FAQ](#)

6 entries

June 20, 2012

Keep flying high Al!

Ellen

June 12, 2012

I love you Dad. Miss you.

Suzy Cohen

June 11, 2012

It was an honor knowing him. What a great guy and a wonderful father.

Tom Cleary

June 11, 2012

Blessings and Godspeed, Dad. Thanks for everything. All my love.

Michael Ziskin

June 11, 2012

An amazing life well lived.

Barbara Gray

June 10, 2012

I love you Dad . . .happy journeying

Patty Ziskin Watts

Patricia Watts

INVITE OTHERS TO ADD MEMORIES

Share to let others add their own memories and condolences



ADVICE & SUPPORT

The Five Stages of Grief

Sympathy Advice

What Is a Eulogy?

Funeral Flower Etiquette

[View All Advice & Support Articles](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

Legacy®

© 2020 Legacy.com All rights Reserved