

Frederick Henry Fastenau Jr.

Obituary

January 15, 1921 - June 3, 2010

For Fred, family was the keystone of his life; his love of family was deeply heartfelt and of prime significance to him. In his last days, he reaffirmed his love of his wife and children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and they had the opportunity to ensure he knew of their deep and abiding love of him.

Fred Fastenau was born on January 15, 1921 in New York, to Frederick and Laura (Tremburger) Fastenau. He grew up in Valley Stream, Long Island, New York.

Following his high school graduation, Fred was employed as a technician at Armor Corp. while starting his engineering night courses at Brooklyn Polytechnic University.

With the onset of World War II, he enlisted with the US Army Air Corps, becoming a navigator. He served as a 1st Lieutenant stationed with the 15th Air Force Group in Bari, Italy. He and his crewmates completed 35 missions.

After the war, Fred completed his engineering studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, graduating with a BSEE degree. He was associated with GTE Lenkurt, where he set up the crystal department, from 1956 until his retirement. He was a highly regarded engineer, both inside and outside the company, and a well-liked manager.

Fred and his wife Dorothy (Dee), who met as high school juniors, marked their 64th wedding anniversary on June 3, 2010. Fred was Dad to twins, Sharyn Bruno (Michael), San Carlos, and Maureen Fastenau (Peter Newbury), Melbourne Australia; Cathi Borthwick (Ken Walters), Flagstaff, Arizona; and Frederick Henry Fastenau III (Rhonda), Westerville, Ohio. He was grandfather of Tony and Christina (dec) Bruno and Victoria, Catherine, and Schuyler Fastenau. He was great-grandfather (Poppop) to Siena and Giana Bruno. He was the brother of Dorothy Keen (Florida), Laura Borgelt (NY), and John Fastenau (NJ).

Fred was a master joke teller, and a jolly Santa to numerous children and adults at Christmas parties. He was a De Molay member during his teens, He and his son were enthusiastic members of YMCA Indian Guides, and he was a 4-H leader in woodworking crafts. In addition to Toastmasters, he enjoyed GTE Lenkurt Retirees monthly luncheon groups.

Travel was a favorite family activity. He saw most of the world, traveling to Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, Caribbean islands, the Orient, Africa, and the South Pacific. He toured the US, driving on numerous cross country tours. While traveling, Fred especially enjoyed chatting with people and learning about their cultures while attempting to converse in their language. One of his cherished recollections was being invited by Kenyan tribesmen to join their spirited dance circle.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, June 11 at 11:00 am at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Manzanita Avenue and Cedar Street, San Carlos. A gravesite service will follow at 2:00 pm at the Veterans area of Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 22555 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos (off Foothill Expwy exit from Hwy 280).

In lieu of flowers, remembrance gifts may be made to the Frederick and Dorothy Fastenau Scholarship Fund, c/o Robert Lauricella, BBVA Compass Bank, San Carlos Branch, 796 El Camino Real, San Carlos 94070.

Published in *San Jose Mercury News* and *San Mateo County Times* on June 9, 2010

