

TSgt William Lawrence Jackson

2 August 1931 – 6 July 2009

TSgt William Lawrence Jackson was born August 2, 1931, in Oakland, California. He passed away on July 6, 2009, after a 10 year battle with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Hodgkins Lymphoma.



Bill graduated from Fremont High School, Oakland, California, in 1949. He was a Cadet 2nd Lt with the JROTC where he participated on the Drill Team and learned target shooting. His first job after high school was with Transoceanic Airlines at the Oakland Airport as an aircraft mechanic.

Bill joined the California Air National Guard as a member of the 129th Air Resupply Squadron at Hayward serving from 1955 to 1961. He completed Aircraft Mechanic Training at Lackland AFB, rising to the rank of TSgt and qualifying as a flight mechanic. He loved to tell stories about working on aircraft such as the SA-16, P-51, C-47, and T-6. He was very knowledgeable about 8 cylinder radial engines such as the Continental 220 hp W-670, the Pratt & Whitney 450 hp, and the Lycoming 225 hp. One of his real favorites was the 4360 which had 16 cylinders – two 8-cylinders bolted together. These were very complex engines, and Bill knew them inside and out.



Bill Jackson, John Macias, Bob Singleton, Vern Mendoza

After leaving the Air Guard in 1961, Bill went to work for the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in Livermore, California. He was a Senior Mechanical Technologist in the Applied Research Engineering Division of the Mechanical Engineering Department., and retired from the Lab in 1993.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Isaac (Ike) Jackson; and brother, Albert Jackson. He is survived by his mother, Lillian Johnson; brother, Jim Jackson; his loving wife of 25 years, Madeleine; sons, Larry Jackson, and Jeffrey Jackson; step-daughter Cindy Ledbetter (Allen); and his beloved cats, Sarah and Bandit, who miss that warm, familiar lap.

A Celebration of Life was held Sunday, August 2, 2009, at Lincoln Hills Community Church, Lincoln, California.