



## Lt. Col. William L. Reynolds USAF Ret.

October 1, 1920 - November 10, 2012

Lt. Col. William L. Reynolds USAF Ret., Professor Emeritas, Sonoma St. University, 92, of Santa Rosa, CA, formerly of Mt. Comfort, IN, died at home in California November 10, 2012. He was born in 1920 in Mt. Comfort, to the late William G. and Mildred Reynolds. Bill graduated from Oaklandon High School in 1938, and completed 3 years at Purdue before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1941. He earned his wings in 1942, was flying B-24s in the right seat in November of 1942, and in 1943 he received his own B-24 all in North Africa. On a hot July day in 1943, Oaklandon was shaken up by a low flying B-24 that performed a perfect air show Buzz at 200 feet and 150 MPH. One pass above the railroad, one pass over the main street north to Geist and southwest to Texas. Bill then caught a train back to Indiana for some fishing and R & R with family. He found a B-17 waiting at his base in Connecticut, and flew back to India for more photo flights. Home in July of 1944 as a Captain, and ready for B-29 school and then on to Saipan. He was joined by 2 new Hot Pilots brothers Lt. Cloyd and Lt. Bob, what a great family reunion. His last flight from Guam was a photo op at 500 feet over Hiroshima 30 days after the Atomic Bomb. He ended his 23 years, flying B-52s carrying nuclear weapons. After retiring to Santa Rosa, CA, he finished college and capitalized on teaching opportunities, where he earned a Master's Degree and started a 20 year teaching career at Sonoma State University. Visitation will be Tuesday, November 20, 2012, 12:00 p.m. until the time of service at 2:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 E. Washington St. Bill

is survived by his brother, James Reynolds (June); daughter-in-law, Lillian Reynolds; two step-children; several step-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. A son, William C. Reynolds, two brothers Cloyd and Bob Reynolds; two wives; and two stepdaughters, all preceded him death.

# Tribute Wall

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“ I had the pleasure of working with Colonel Reynolds my first few years at Sonoma State. On one occasion, I mentioned to him that a Commemorative Air Force B-17 was going to be at the local airfield. His immediate reply was “B-17s are easy to fly.” That from a fellow in his late 80s! He was a great guy.

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**John Urbanski** - August 05, 2025 at 01:16 AM