



Howard G. King

September 8, 1922 - June 17, 2018

Howard G. King, 95, of Tucson, AZ, died on June 17, 2018. He was born to Eli W. and Violet George King on Sept. 8, 1922, in Monongahela, PA, the oldest of five children. After graduating from Monongahela High School in 1941, he enlisted in the Army and served as a staff sergeant with the 1st U.S. Infantry Division, 18th Regiment. He took part in the North African and Sicilian campaigns before landing on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, and fighting through France, Belgium and Germany. For his service he was awarded the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and the French Legion of Honor Medal. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1950 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, but his career was primarily in mining engineering. In 1961 he left his work with coal mines in Pennsylvania and West Virginia to move his family to Tucson. From 1965 to 1978 he worked for the Anaconda Company, starting with design and construction of the Twin Buttes Copper Mine south of Tucson. His work then took him to remote but interesting parts of the world. For Anaconda he worked on copper mining projects in New Brunswick, Canada; Sonora, Mexico; and southern Iran. In 1978 he was employed by Atlantic Richfield Company to design and construct coal mines across the country. In 1979 he was hired by Daniel K. Ludwig, Universal Tankships Inc., to serve as CEO of the Jari forestry and pulp production project on a tributary of the Amazon in Brazil. Then, as a Senior VP for Universal Tankships, he explored the feasibility of a farming project in Paraguay and a joint venture with China to develop coal mines there. Although he and his wife, Verneda, traveled extensively and lived in other cities and countries temporarily, they always returned to their home in Tucson. In 1986 he retired from Universal Tankships and Atlantic Richfield, but he continued providing consulting services in the field of mining. Besides his work, he enjoyed the outdoors, flying planes, and studying history. His family and his many friends loved him for his generosity, sense of humor, and ability to tell great stories. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his loving wife of 73 years, Verneda Toothman King; his daughter, Sandra King (Butch) Ruhl; his granddaughter, Christine King (David) Stierna; step-grandchildren Amy Ruhl and Andy (Kelly) Ruhl; great-grandchildren, Rayne and Alaric Stierna; and step-great grandchildren Bailey and Christopher Weitekamp and Lucy and Amelia Ruhl. He is predeceased by his son, Lloyd Howard (Suzanne) King. A private memorial service is planned for a later date.

Cemetery

Evergreen Cemetery

3015 North Oracle Road

Tucson, AZ, 85705

Comments



“ Howard was a faithful friend of my husband Jack with whom he had worked at Anaconda. After Jack was gone, Howard left me on his email list so I kept in touch with him and all our mutual friends. I missed those emails and felt sad that his eyesight was gone because I knew how much that contact with his friends meant to him. We can rejoice knowing his vision is restored and he has no more depression.

Helen Coile - July 29, 2018 at 07:43 PM



“ I will miss Uncle Howard;
One of my favorite memories of Uncle Howard was a trip out into the desert to an old swimming. Howard was an excellent shot with a pistol. And that day he had one on his hip. He was a lefty also. My Grandfather (Pap-Pap) was totally amazed by these wonderful creatures of the desert. Can you picture this? A jack rabbit jumped up and was running out through the desert as we were bouncing around in the vehicle. And so, with one hand on the wheel, he pulled out his pistol and shot/killed the jack rabbit on the fly. And Pap-Pap got his first close encounter with an Arizona jack rabbit.
Paul Alan Harn

Paul Alan Harn - July 02, 2018 at 01:57 PM



“ Verneda and Howard always made me feel part of the family along with Sandy and Butch. His sense of humor and ability to tell his stories was a joy. We are fortunate to have known Howard. Our condolences and love to his family.

Linda Britt & Peter Yingling - June 26, 2018 at 01:03 PM



“ It was my privilege to know this fine man for the past 15 years. His humility, humor, generosity, and kindness were always apparent. He lived a remarkable life, and accomplished much, but was ever humble. And yes his stories were wonderful! So much to tell after such a full life. My deepest sympathies to Sandy and Verneda. I will miss my friend. Be at peace Howard.

Helene Showalter - June 26, 2018 at 12:24 PM



“ My condolences to Sandy and her family.

Donna Yoder

Donna Yoder - June 26, 2018 at 08:42 AM



“ The obituary is a literary masterpiece; very well done. To record fully all the successes and wise decisions achieved by HGK would require far more than 20 pages! A devoted friend of 16 years knows that when HGK awoke each morning, his first thought apparently was : "Who needs help today?" Howard generously helped his friends and friends of his friends with all kinds of necessary skills that usually would be nigh impossible to promptly obtain in commerce. Howard was always teaching important ideas; lending and giving important books.

Howard was the most successful, interesting and generous man I have ever known and the only one to land in Africa and face the enemy in 1942.

With celebration of his life and gratitude for his companionship, Uncle Charlie

Charles Clark Griesinger - June 25, 2018 at 09:38 PM