

IN MEMORY OF :

Ed Real

On September 28, 1984, pilot Ed Real's tanker had just dropped its load on an arson fire in Monterey County when the plane dipped sideways and crashed into a hill. Real died at the controls.

Real had a long, impressive flying record. He flew combat in World War II, was one of the first jet pilots and flew the P80 in one of the first jet squadrons.

He taught primary flight and aerobatics for numerous Air Force cadets and then flew airtankers for 16 years for Sis-Q Flying Service.

Surviving are his wife, Betty, and son Mark, a Major in the United States Air Force.

"Tanker Down"

The following is an excerpt from a letter we recently received from Fire Apparatus Engineer David Jones:

Dear Fellow Firefighters:

This is an open letter to all of you who were dispatched to the Corral fire on Friday, September 28 on which Tanker 100 Pilot Edward Leonard Real was tragically killed. I have had this arson incident foremost in my mind since it happened, as I'm sure many of you have also.

Last year I spent two days at the Hollister Air Base and met two pilots, Ted Bell and Ed Real. Both were so friendly and willing to explain the air program. I flew one mission and saw Ted operate from the Air Attack plane. This year, only months apart, both of these men have died during suppression or dispatch for fires. Like you, listening to the radio traffic announcing the tank-

er down and on fire caused my heart to sink. So many thoughts race through one's mind about the danger of the job and the pain our loved ones would experience if it were us one day. We also endure hurt and pain when we lose a friend. Death on a fire is tragic — regardless if the fire was accidental or intentional in origin. The loss we feel is the same.

Regardless of rank, paid or volunteer, we answer the call to duty when the alarm sounds. On Friday more than 100 people answered that alarm - County Fire, CDF engine companies, Heli-crew, Air attack, tankers, hand crews, overhead and support crews. None of us had any notion that Friday was to be the final alarm for Tanker Pilot Ed Real. His senseless death touches us all; we lost a fellow firefighter and a friend.

Sincerely,

David Jones
fire apparatus engineer

Ted Bell

On July 13, 1984, shortly before 4:30 p.m. pilot Ted Bell of Santa Rosa took off from the CDF Air Attack Base at the Ukiah Airport headed for a wildland fire in Lake County. A few minutes later the plane went down, killing Bell.

Bell had flown for Sis-Q Flying Service since 1980. He was a former teacher who changed his career to flying. Bell learned to fly at the Sonoma County Airport, earned numerous flight ratings and became a ground instructor and a flight instructor before joining Sis-Q.

Prior to this Bell taught agricultural subjects a Fullerton and Santa Rosa High Schools and at Santa Rosa Junior College. He was born in Pyote, Texas and traveled extensively as part of a U.S. Air Force family.

Surviving are his daughter, Elizabeth; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore A. Bell; his grandmother, Gladys Pritchard Bell; two brothers, Stephen and Clifford; a sister, Beverly; and his fiancée, Lynda Whiting, whom he was to be married to on July 28.