



## DONALD RUSSELL ALLEN

January 14, 1928 - October 21, 2015

Donald Russell Allen was born in Picher OK Jan 14, 1928 to Elender and James Allen. He had a sister Eloise, and a brother Larry in the following years and at the age of about 15 moved to Avenal CA where he learned to fly with a man by the name of Robert DeVault. Donald flew Robert's personal aircraft and had his first solo flight to Chandler airfield in Fresno and back to Avenal in 1946. That same year he graduated from Avenal high school, and Enlisted in the Army where he trained in the 82nd airborne glider school, and served as a machine operator and clerk until March of 1948. Donald lived in San Jose California, worked as a real estate salesman and met his first wife Josephine with whom he had a son Bruce, in August of 1949. Still in the Army reserves he was called to active duty in Sept 1950. In Feb 1951 he was sent to Korea with the 6th and 300th where he served as an aircraft mechanic until Sept 1951.

Donald came back to California, continued to fly and studied electronics, eventually working for Varian Assoc.

By 1965 he had married his second wife Shirley and had another son Jason in 1969 at the age of 41. This began a new chapter for Donald where he continued his work in electronics with Laser technology for Spectra physics, AGL and owned a business for many years until his retirement in 1998.

Donald had experienced all of the good in life, family, marriage, children, grandchildren and a long career. With the good he also suffered hard times.

War, divorce, the loss of loved ones including his sister Eloise and son Bruce.

In the last few months of Donald's life he told his son, "I have lived a long full life, but there are many things I could have done better." He after all was human, and realized that no matter how long you live, there were sill things to learn.

Donald was generous, had a warm smile, a firm handshake and could charm you with his vibrant blue eyes. He made friends wherever he went and with all kinds of people. Donald had a sharp wit and sharper sense of humor.

"I remember the most I ever heard my dad laugh was at funniest home videos on TV back in the 80's. I remember thinking how great it was when he laughed so hard, making every trip and fall that much more funny. I always enjoyed our TV time." - Jason

Donald however, never took himself seriously, and tried to live by the golden rule expecting no less of others.

Donald is survived by his wife Shirley of 49 years, his son Jason, stepson Daniel, daughters in-law Danielle and Lori. Grandchildren, Michele, Jennifer, Jamison, Mitchel, Leah, Emma and Taylor. His brother Larry and sister in-law Helen as well as numerous nieces, nephews and great grandchildren. And then there were the children he loved as his own, Karen, Richard, Bob and Holly

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

NOV 2. 1:30 PM (PT)

San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery

32053 West McCabe Road

Santa Nella, CA 95322

<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sanjoaquinvalley.asp>

# Tribute Wall



“ *DONALD RUSSELL ALLEN*

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ *Red, White & Blue Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of DONALD RUSSELL ALLEN.*



November 01, 2015 at 07:04 PM



“ *Joseph M. purchased the Multicolor Pastel Sympathy Basket for the family of DONALD RUSSELL ALLEN.*



**Joseph M.** - October 31, 2015 at 01:33 PM

JA

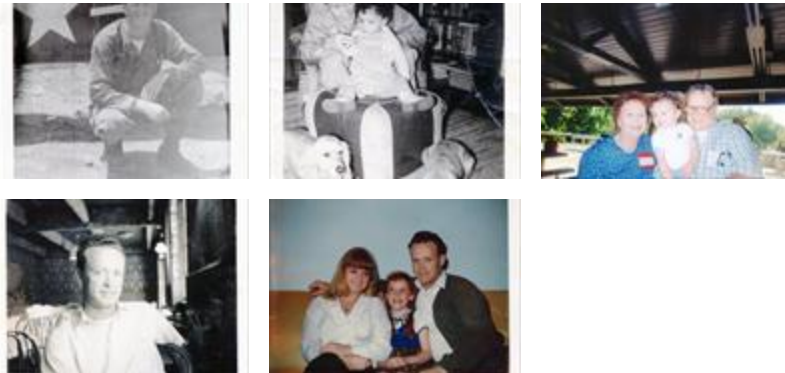
“ I was fortunate enough to have had the time to have real conversations with my Dad about all the things in our lives. Conversations of the joys and successes, failures and hardship and where there are opportunities to make the best of life. All the things I remember growing up that he either did or tried... to instill in me. I do and always will remember. I also remember that he and my mother gave me a great childhood. I had every opportunity to use the talents they gave me, to make something of myself be confident and happy. To me, there is no greater gift they could have ever given. I learned that parenthood is a duty that never ends, to carry out with love and hope so the lessons are learned and stick. Our failures can be examples too, so that children become prepared for what is coming.  
Thank you for your love and always being there. I am and always will be proud to call you Dad....- Jason

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Jason - October 30, 2015 at 06:20 PM

JA

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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Jason - October 30, 2015 at 05:54 PM

JA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Jason** - October 30, 2015 at 05:49 PM

KH

“ *Karen, Bob, Richard, Morris and Holly purchased the Sincerest Sorrow - Blue and White for the family of DONALD RUSSELL ALLEN.*



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**Karen, Bob, Richard, Morris and Holly** - October 30, 2015 at 12:42 PM

JJ

“ *Jamison, Shelly and Jossy purchased the Peaceful Wishes for the family of DONALD RUSSELL ALLEN.*



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**Jamison, Shelly and Jossy** - October 28, 2015 at 04:55 PM

TF

“ *The Larry Allen Family purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Basket for the family of DONALD RUSSELL ALLEN.*



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**The Larry Allen Family** - October 28, 2015 at 03:59 PM

JA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Jason** - October 28, 2015 at 03:44 PM

JA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Jason** - October 28, 2015 at 03:43 PM

“ Dear Don,

*My very first memory of you was the day we were in the snow in Tacoma, I was fascinated by all the skiers racing by us until I started sinking. I remember screaming from the fear of being swallowed up and you came to my rescue. I was not much older than three and didn't know the word for it but it was then I understood what a hero was.*

*Soon after that memory you went to Korea and I had no idea what that meant except that you were far away and my mother would send you packages. It was such fun to watch her pack them and it was quite a treat to get a taste of the extra pack of peanut butter cookies she would buy for us. I loved the taste of those cookies and thought about how happy you would be when you got your package.*

*It's funny how we choose which memories to cherish and which to allow to fade but I vividly remember the night you came home from Korea. I remember a knock at the door and looking out to see the silhouette of a soldier. I know it wasn't something anyone expected or knew about, maybe that's what made your homecoming so magical and at the same time so somber, our hero was home.*

*Bruce was still a baby when you came home and I wasn't yet five so we both got piggy back and pony rides, but I especially remember how you would balance Bruce in one hand. It unnerved my mother but Bruce loved it. Evidently you had a natural talent for balance. Bob told me about the time you rode a bicycle in reverse, had I been there I know I would have remembered but I was probably off at a friends. He told me you sat up on the handlebars facing the back of the bike and peddled, maybe that was proof that you had eyes in back of your head because sometimes it seemed as if you did.*

*There was a time when I was six or seven that my father and his new wife told me that I shouldn't be calling you daddy because you*

*weren't my real daddy. I was very confused by that, children don't know too much about egos, I couldn't understand why I couldn't have two daddies, I loved both of you. They told me it would be alright to call you daddy Don, I tried calling you that a couple of times.but it was just too awkward.*

*The years we lived on Schiele Street were good times in many ways. I remember you taking us on picnics at Stevens Creek Dam and we would watch in awe at some of the daredevils who would drive their jeeps up the wall of the dam. Can any of us forget the night we went to the hard top races, it was a special promotion and you paid by the car load. You told us to ask our friends if they wanted to go and we managed to get at least 12 kids plus you the driver in the sedan. That was before seat belts of course. Then there was your 15 minutes of fame when you won a state of the art electric frying pan by counting the jelly beans in a jar at our local grocery store. That was a big deal back then in the good old days.*

*There was another wonderful memory from Schiele Street, one that I have always cherished because it was such a beautiful surprise. It was Easter morning and there were two of the biggest most lavish Easter baskets from See's candy sitting on the coffee table, one for me and one for Bruce. I didn't know the word then but they were exquisite, visually they were beautiful. Pink, blue and gold foil wrapped chocolate eggs and bunnies, and little sugar eggs you could peek into. I had never known of anyone ever getting a basket like that and I remember feeling so special and so loved it was a basket fit for a princess.*

*Thank you for all that you did for us and all the challenges you faced. All of us are grateful. Until we meet again.*

*All my love, your first little girl, Karen*

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**Karen Severson** - October 28, 2015 at 01:50 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jason** - October 27, 2015 at 05:08 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jason** - October 27, 2015 at 05:00 PM