

Derrell (often spelled *Darrel*) Cline was a long-serving Fresno Air National Guard fighter pilot, but no public source lists his birth date. His death date is documented: June 11, 2024, with burial at Santa Nella Military Cemetery.

Below is the full, sourced biography based on all available records.

Confirmed Death Information

- **Name:** Lt. Col. Derrel / Darrel Cline
- **Death:** June 11, 2024 (funeral service date; burial at Santa Nella Military Cemetery)
- **Service:** Honor guard and flag presentation at burial

No public obituary or government record provides his **birth date**, and none appears in ANG rosters, AF.mil biographies, or public databases.

Biography & Fresno Air National Guard Career

All available historical accounts come from first-hand recollections by fellow 144th Fighter Group / 194th Fighter Interceptor Squadron members. These accounts confirm:

- **Unit:** 144th Fighter Group / 194th FIS (Hayward → Fresno)
- **Aircraft flown:**
 - **P-51 Mustang**
 - **F-86L Sabre** (documented flying in Fresno ANG in 1962)
- **Legendary incident:**
 - Col. Milt Graham grounded him for **three months** for flying a **P-51 under the Golden Gate Bridge**.
- **Reputation:**
 - Referred to by multiple ANG veterans as **“The Last of the Legends.”**
 - Known for night alert duty in the “Bat Cave” under the hangar.
 - Famous for bringing steaks to BBQ during alert shifts.
- **Civilian life:**
 - Sold life insurance in the early 1960s while flying F-86Ls.
 - Drove a Corvair and carried a Playboy Club key (noted in a 1962 anecdote).
- **Social life:**
 - Regular at Yosemite Ranch bar in Fresno in later years.
- **ANG community memory:**
 - Remembered as friendly, gruff in a humorous way, and deeply respected.
 - Frequently mentioned in Fresno ANG veteran correspondence.