

On Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 08:57:26 AM PDT, Bill Lucido wrote:

From Gregg Cline:

Services for (Lt Col) Darrel Cline: Tuesday June 11 @ 11:00. Santa Nella Military Cemetery. Honor guard with flag presentation. About 45 minutes. Luncheon to follow at Anderson's Pea Soup restaurant. My email:

Guido

ps. Gregg asks that those who can be there for the luncheon to RSVP by April 15 to email above.

From: joe corey

Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 3:45 PM

A Salute to an Ole Timer.

Chatting with Darrel at Moto's graveside Funeral Service. The Unit was the 144th Fighter Group/194th FIS at Hayward. Darrel told me that Col. Milt Graham grounded him for 3 moths for flying a P-51 Mustang under Golden Gate Bridge. Back in the day we had two Clines in the Fresno unit: Norman "N" Cline and Darrel "D" Cline. Rolled the "dice" many times with Darrel and so many others to see who would buy the drinks. I'll buy the drinks tonight. Farewell my friend.

Joe Corey

Thank you Joe,

When I first arrived at the 194th, I was a 2LT, Darrel was Major DeCline.

We pulled a lot of night alert together in the old Bat Cave downstairs in the hanger.

He'd try to act gruff, but he'd often bring a couple of nice steaks and we'd BBQ them on an old well-used hibachi outside the door. In recent years I could always find him at the bar at Yosemite Ranch on Cedar and Sheperd.

I'd sit close to my friend, and he, no longer gruff would regale me with tales of flying the P-51.

Darrel was The Last of the Legends.

Jad

Date: 4/8/2024 11:26:54 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: paul carroll

Darrel was a sure enough Legend. I can remember cooking some steaks with him also when on night alert. Her insisted on putting a bunch of mustard on the steak first. Sounded like a bad idea but tasted great so I picked up that habit. He was a good man-Paul

Date: 4/9/2024 7:09:22 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: jim mc nab

I knew Darrel Cline a fairly long time. Back in 1962 Darrel was selling life insurance while also flying F-86Ls in the Fresno Air Guard. My father, who was a full timer in aircraft maintenance out at the base, of course knew Darrel and was interested in purchasing some life insurance for me. One evening Darrel wheeled up into our driveway in a new Corvair. He was dressed pretty spiffy for the time and I couldn't believe my eyes when I spotted the Playboy Club Key on his keychain when he set them down on the coffee table in our living room. Even though I was but 12 years old, I knew what the key meant. I was impressed!

Over the years I kept up with Darrel when I visited my dad out at the base. Darrel was always friendly to my mother, father, and me. It was not until I got into the Fresno Air Guard in 1972 that I was able to hear firsthand some of Darrel's exploits. Regretfully, I never got to fly with him.

On a visit to Fresno a couple years ago at a GFL luncheon Mike Budd graciously put together at Fort Washington, I asked Darrel if he wouldn't mind sharing a couple of his flying stories. He agreed and I made some audio clips of him. One is Darrel describing chasing a Navy Corsair he had in his F-51 gunsight as they both flew under the Golden Gate bridge. There are a couple other good stories as well. I would be happy to share these. It would be a fitting tribute to Darrel to have the GFL to hear Darrel's stories in his own voice.

Darrel started out as an enlisted ordnance troop up in Hayward, CA. He was chosen for flight training and came back from flight school to fly the F-51 D and H models. After the 144th moved to Fresno in 1955 Darrel flew the F-86A, F-86L, and finished up in the F-102.

Darrel Cline wore the 194th patch a long time and will be remembered for his colorful and unforgettable personality. Outwardly he was gruff and ornery. However, those who knew Darrel Cline will remember a kind and caring man. Fair skies, Darrel.

B.O.B.