



Sterling Sowden

March 5, 1940 - February 15, 2007

STERLING "SATCH" JON SOWDEN, Colonel, USAF (Ret.) age 66 of Gainesville, Virginia died Thursday, February 15, 2007 at his residence in his beloved Lake Manassas community.

Col. Sowden was born March 5, 1940 in Scranton, Pennsylvania son of the late Sterling and Christine Sowden. His distinguished flying and service career is reflected by the many medals awarded to him, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal w/3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal w/2 Silver and 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal w/1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He served in Bolivia, Guatemala, Panama and Mexico. He retired from the Air Force in 1990 after serving as Air Attache in the US Embassy in Spain.

He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Benet; his son Nate, and his daughter Erin, their spouses, Michelle and John; one brother, John Sowden; three sisters, Barbara McConnell, Marilyn Szilagyi and Jayne Sarro and three grandchildren, Sofia, William and Macgregor Sowden.

The family will receive friends from 2:00-4:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 7, 2007

at Pierce-Price Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas. A Celebration of Col. Sowden's life will be offered at 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 7th at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held 9:00 A.M. Thursday, March 8, 2007 at Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer with interment to follow at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Donations in memory of Sterling J. Sowden may be directed to The Lance Armstrong Cancer Foundation , National Mail Processing Center, P.O. Box 6003, Albert Lea, MN 56007-6603 or United Services Organization.

Condolences may be sent to www.pricefh.com.

Tribute Wall

WH

“ We were room mates at the beginning of our careers. So sorry to read of his passing.

*Lt. Col. Wm. T Hanson, author of:
Prisoner of Peace, 2nd Edition, EBOOK.*

R.I. P. Zach.

Bill Bob

William T. Hanson - October 08, 2020 at 12:49 PM

TT

“ Our deepest sympathies. Whenever I see an airplane fly over our country home, I think of Sterling. He told us he often flies overhead just to see the progress we made reclaiming an overgrown old farm. He found this oasis for us at the height of the housing market. He truly understood what our needs were and helped us establish a home. He will forever fly in our hearts.

Tom & Christine Taylor - March 29, 2013 at 02:04 PM

LE

“ Dear Benet and family,
Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Linda Hughes Ellow - March 29, 2013 at 02:04 PM

JM

“ *Barbara just called me and told me of Satch's passing. I'm so truly sorry! When I learned of his passing, I broke down and wept when I heard the news. He was in my thoughts and prayers since I learned of his illness. I always had great respect and admiration for Satch. He will be missed.*

To Benet and the family, I pray the Lord's choicest blessings of comfort upon you all.

Love,

Jack McConnell

Jack W. McConnell - March 29, 2013 at 02:04 PM

JM

“ I first met Satch when I flew a C-130 into the Santa Cruz, Bolivia airport in the spring of 1973. We had a long conversation and struck up a friendship as we hung around waiting for the Bolivian Air Force to cut through whatever red tape my arrival had caused.

Several years later I flew a mission into Guatamala City and was met by the Mil Group Representative, Satch. We reminisced about our meeting in Bolivia in 1973 and Satch invited me to dinner at your house. It was a great dinner and I enjoyed very much the time I spent in your home before going out to sample the delights of the night life. Truth be told, I would have been much better off the next morning if I had gone straight from your home back to my hotel room.

I was surprised and sorry to read the obit today. I liked Satch and felt he was a fine man and officer. Even though I haven't seen him for over 25 years, I remember him and miss him.

Your choice of picture is a good one.

Joe Myers, Lt Col, (Ret)
USAF/WV Air National Guard

Joe Myers - March 25, 2007 at 12:00 AM