



Curtis Reiber

December 5, 1914 – August 10, 2012

Curtis Reiber, 97, longtime Lincoln resident and formerly of Ogallala, died Friday, August 10, 2012 in Eastmont Towers Nursing Home in Lincoln.

Curtis was born December 5, 1914 in Harrisburg, Penn., the son of Curtis and Nancy Miller Reiber. He attended schools in Harrisburg and in 1934 attended the Lincoln Airplane and Flying School in Lincoln, Nebr. Curtis received his Aircraft and Engine license upon graduation. He worked with barn stormers in the Midwest and then at Stapleton Airport in Colorado where he met Ruby Yeo. Curtis and Ruby were married in 1940.



Curt continued at Stapleton and then went to Laramie, Wyo. until the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was accepted at Lockheed Aircraft Corp. in Burbank, Cal. to work as a flight engineer on B-17's and Hudson Bombers until the war ended.

After the war Curt, Ruby, and their young son David moved to Denver where Curt worked as shop foreman for five years at Clinton Aviation. The family then moved to Scottsbluff and Curt opened Reiber's Aircraft Repair with pilot Bud Betz. In 1960 the family moved to Ogallala where Curt was shop foreman at Searle Field (Ogallala airport), which was a Piper distributor for Nebr., Colo., Wyo., and N. Dakota.

Curt retired in 1980. He then indulged in his passion for airplanes by visiting various fly-ins at Oshkosh, Reno and Florida as well as every airplane museum he could find. He was a member of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Assn. for 54 years, the Experimental Aircraft Assn., the National Air & Space Society, and the National Air Racing Group.

He was a Master Mason of Ogallala Lodge 159, the Ogallala Moose Lodge 1624, Sesostri Shrine, Scottish Rite and was a life member of Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 for 61 years.

Preceding him in death was his wife Ruby in 1965, a son Larry Reiber, and one brother Claude Reiber.

Survivors include his son David (Sandra) Reiber of Lincoln; his daughter Cherri Reiber of Wellington, Flor.; grandsons: Michael Reiber (Tiffany) of Verona, Wis. and Steve Reiber of Corpus Christi, Tex. Granddaughters Katherine Brandenburg of Lincoln and Patricia Lavelle (husband Brennan) of Goehner, Nebr. and eight great-grandchildren: Madison, Shelby and Colton Reiber; William and Ethan Lavelle, Nicholas Brandenburg, and Avery and Addison Reiber.

The graveside service will be Friday, August 17, at 10 a.m. in the Ogallala Cemetery. Rev. Chuck Rager will officiate. Masonic Rites will be rendered by the Ogallala Masonic Lodge #159 AF & AM.

A memorial has been established to the Keith County Senior Center, 202 West First, Ogallala, NE 69153.

Online condolences may be sent to webmaster@drauckerfh.com.

Draucker Funeral Home of Ogallala is in charge of arrangements.