



Obituary—Lieutenant-Colonel Edwin M. Lum, 21 February 1926-29 May 2017.

Ed Lum was born in Elaine, Arkansas, to Charlie Lum and Bertha Wong Lum, one of six children. The family moved to West Memphis, Arkansas, where they opened a store. Ed attended Hulbert High School in West Memphis, graduating in 1943. He got his pilot's license at age 16.



Upon graduating, at 17, he joined the Marine Corps. He trained at Camp Pendleton before being

stationed in Hawaii. During his service he participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima, turning 19 in a foxhole on the island.



Later, he was stationed in Occupied Japan. Subsequently, he returned to school.



In 1949 he became an Air Force pilot, commissioned as a first lieutenant. He flew in both Korea and Vietnam. After retiring from the Air Force as a Major, he served in the California Air National Guard, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Ed taught Physical Education in the Los Angeles Unified School District; he directed the High School golf program for the district. His service was written up in the 2007 book acknowledging military service of district employees, *Heroes and Teachers: Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Flyers*, compiled by Paul M. Passemoto et al (2007). Retiring from teaching in 1985, he then dedicated his time to his true vocation, golf. He played golf for over 70 years, all over the world, from Rio, through Marrakesh, to Europe and Asia. He continued to play until the day before he entered the hospital with his final illness.

Ed was active with the Air Force Association (Life Member), the American Legion, the Boy Scouts of America, Military Officers Association of America, USMC Toy's for Tots, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He supported the USO. He was a member of the Phi Epsilon Kappa fraternity. While he lived in Southern California, he was a member of the Los Angeles Chinese Golf Club and of the Sierra La Verne Country Club. At the time of his death he belonged to the Siena Men's Golf Club (Las Vegas). In 2014 he was privileged to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a ceremony honoring WWII veterans, as a participant in the Honor Flight of Southern Nevada. An oral history interview recounting his military service is on deposit at the Library of Congress as the Edwin Michael Lum Collection, Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center.

Ed Lum died in Las Vegas, Nevada, as a result of his third bout of cancer.

He is survived by his loving wife, Cathy; by siblings Frances Quan, Pansy Wing, and Albert Lum; by four children: Cindy (Michael) Hotta; Lori (Kuni) Hattori; Ed Jr. (Delcy); Akua (Dale) Reeser. He was preceded in death by two brothers and by a son, J.J.

Funeral mass and interment is scheduled for San Fernando Mission Cemetery, Mission Hills, California, June 20, 11 a.m. A celebration of Ed's life is scheduled for Siena Community Center, September 9, 1 p.m.

ED LUM

(Biography submitted for Old Timers Reunion in Oct 2010)

I enlisted in the Marine Corps right out of high school at age 17. After boot camp I was assigned to the 5th Amphibious Corps and was part of the invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. After Iwo Jima was captured my unit was pulled back and relocated to Hawaii. We regrouped and rested and were dispatched to Japan to be part of the invasion force. En route to Japan the Japanese surrendered but we continued to Sasebo on Kyushu, Island and became part of the occupying forces. After almost a year of occupation duty I was discharged from the Marine Corps in April 1946.

I decided to return to the military in 1948 and applied for and was accepted into the Aviation Cadet program. I went through Primary Training in the T-6 at Randolph AFB, Texas followed by Basic Flight Training in the B-25 at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana in the Class of 49A.



I received my wings in February 1949 and was honored to have them pinned on by Eddie Rickenbacker. After pilot training, I checked out in the B-29 and flew missions over Korea from Yokota AB, Japan. After the Korean War was over, I resigned from the Air Force in 1953.



From 1954 to 1958 I attended Los Angeles State College and Los Angeles City College to earn a college degree and teaching credential. Since it was difficult to get by on a teacher's salary I went back in the military and joined the Air Force Reserve. From 1962 to 1964 I flew the C-119 at March AFB.

In 1964 I transferred into the Air National Guard at Van Nuys and flew the C-97 until my retirement in 1968.



146th Alumni President, Dan Pemberton presents Ed Lum with his "Old Timers" certificate from the Association. Presentation occurred during the annual reunion, in Laughlin Nevada, October, 2010.