



## Lt. Col. George J. Laben USAF (Ret.)

March 19, 1919 - November 14, 2014

It is with profound sadness that we announce that a proud American World War II combat pilot has completed his last mission. Lt. Col. George J. Laben passed away on November 14th, 2014. He was born on March 19, 1919 in St. Anne, Illinois. George spent his early years on Southwest Indian Reservations, where his parents were in the medical services. After the death of his father when he was thirteen, he and his mother moved to Indiana. He graduated from Crown Point, Indiana High School, and then attended Purdue University. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 1942 and was called to active duty May 1st, 1942. Shortly after entering the service, he passed the U.S. Army Air Force pilot training test and graduated in June, 1943 as a pilot and 2nd Lieutenant. He completed training in Troop Carrier operations. He was stationed overseas in October, 1943 and assigned to the Second Troop Carrier Squadron, Tenth Air Force in Assam, India. During his overseas tour, he completed 245 combat missions, receiving five Air Medals and five Distinguished Flying Crosses and returned to the U.S. in February, 1945. With active duty, Mobilization Day and Reserve assignments, he completed 28 years of service. His last duty assignment was State Coordinator for Reserve Officers assigned to the U.S.A.F. Civil Air Patrol in New Mexico. He retired from the U.S.A.F. as a Lt. Colonel in 1969. He moved to Albuquerque, NM with wife Helen and sons Phil and John in 1953. In 1970, he bought Vacuum Specialties and operated this business until he sold it and retired in March, 1990. He is survived by son Phillip; daughter-in-law, Robin; his granddaughter

Amanda; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. George John and Leda Laben, Helen B. Laben, his first wife of 49 years, his son John William Laben, and his second wife Margret N. Laben. Per his request, George has been cremated and will rest with Helen, John and Margret at Sunset Memorial Park, Albuquerque. Services will be held at FRENCH~ Lomas at 10500 Lomas Blvd. NE, 10:00 AM on December 3, 2014. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Animal Humane Society in his name or the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Park

924 Menaul Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87107  
(505) 345-3536  
info@sunset-memorial.com  
<https://www.sunset-memorial.com/>

# Previous Events

## Service

DEC 3. 10:00 AM (MT)  
FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)  
10500 Lomas Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112  
(505) 275-3500  
<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *French Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of Lt. Col. George J. Laben USAF (Ret.)*



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**FRENCH Funerals & Cremations** - December 02, 2014 at 11:36 AM

RJ

“ *The Old Timers and Old Codgers CB and Side Band radir operators apprciated having George and his spouse as a part of their Organizations.  
We all knew also that he was an asset to the Armed forces of the United States.*

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**Rubin Johnson** - December 22, 2014 at 11:43 AM

JR

“ *RIP sweet George. Your sense of humor and instant friendship is truly missed. My husband and I were just taking about you this weekend. Your Emerson joke is still a hit.*

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**Jennifer Ruybal** - December 15, 2014 at 09:35 PM

LR

“ *On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.*

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**Luke Rogers** - November 25, 2014 at 01:28 PM