



Virgil Erbert

June 9, 2014

Virgil Erbert, age 89, a resident of Albuquerque since 1957, went to be with the Lord on Monday, June 9, 2014. He is survived by his children, Constance Romero and husband, John, Sandy Ricci and husband, Jamie, Vickie Grebe and husband, Dick, and Gaylen Erbert and wife, Beth; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years, Mary Erbert in 2006; great-grandson, Tyson Healy; and brother, Clarence Erbert. Virgil was born in 1924 in Ellis, KS and after graduation from high school, entered the United States Navy where he proudly served during WWII and the Korean Conflict. After his discharge, he started his own business in Hays, KS, Erbert Electric Machinery. He also attended Ft. Hays State College and received his BS in Physics and Mathematics. On the day of graduation he was hired by Sandia Laboratories where he worked for over 30 years until his retirement. Virgil was a member of MENSA and had many patents for scientific inventions. He continued to be active, even in later years. Virgil enjoyed his workshop, reading books, playing the piano and working on scientific projects and formulas. We will never forget his quick wit, easy going personality, dry sense of humor, and positive attitude. He was a loving father and grandfather and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Graveside Services will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 7999 Wyoming Blvd. NE, with Pastor Don Wilson officiating. Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made in Virgil's name to the charity of your choice.

FRENCH – Wyoming
7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE
(505) 823-9400

Cemetery Details

Gate of Heaven Cemetery

7999 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM

Previous Events

Graveside Services

JUN **14.** 10:30 AM (MT)

Gate of Heaven Cemetery
7999 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM

Tribute Wall

JK

“ I knew Virgil primarily through his family, and if I accept that the child reflects the man, then he truly led a loving, wonderful life. I'll always cherish the time I shared at their cabin on the Chama, and the adventures and memories we made both there and in Albuquerque.

There's one less of us who understand and appreciate both the usefulness and humor in operating a 'Gaylen' wrench, but I smile whenever I have the opportunity to put one to good use.

Our thoughts are with you,

John and Hendre Kleinsteuber

John Kleinsteuber - June 14, 2014 at 08:44 AM

“It was one of the great pleasures of my wife’s and my lives to have shared nearly 50 years with Virge and Mary Erbert. Virge and I worked together on more than one occasion at Sandia, we were part of a group of Sandians who left to form Rolamite Corporation, we stayed in contact on those occasions when one or the other of us tried their luck somewhere other than Sandia. Besides work, we shared an interest in magic (conjuring), hiking in northern New Mexico, running the rapids of the Rio Grande and the Chama and much more. Our families grew up together.

Even in a full life you can number the friends you make who are that close on the fingers of your two hands. Luckily for us, Virge and Mary were in that enumeration. Virge was an extraordinary person in many respects. Two anecdotes give some idea of just how his view of life was special. Virge moved to Los Angeles to work at TRW on laser ranging systems – lasers figured in several of his contributions at Sandia as well. A year or so later I ran into him at a scientific meeting and asked the natural question: How’s the new job Virge? His reply is an insight into the man. “Gus”, he said, “I am doing just what I would do if I were rich and could do what I wanted to do”. It wasn’t just that job, that was Virge’s attitude about life. Not many people ever say – or think – “I am doing just what I would do if I were rich and could do what I wanted to do”.

Roger has already commented on Virge’s inventiveness. Space prevents me elaborating on that except to say that many people make inventions – often ingenious – but they invent where inspiration strikes them. Virge made “inventions to order”, inventions so clever and unexpected I coined the term “Well I’ll be damned” to describe them since that was the usual reaction of people when they saw them. But the anecdote is more revealing about Virge than his genius at making inventions to order. On a few occasions someone took credit for what Virge had done, either minimizing his contribution or leaving him out altogether. Most people would have demanded justice. Virge’s response was; “There’s plenty more where that one came from”. That was true for ideas with Virge, but

not true for Virge. There are no more where he came from. Virge was one of a kind and we will sorely miss him.

Gus Simmons

Gustavus Simmons - June 11, 2014 at 05:34 PM

RH

“*Virgil worked in my group at Sandia where we were engaged in often very important and technically challenging development projects. He was sought out for his extraordinary inventiveness and consistent work ethic. As an inventor, he was unique in his tenacious pursuit of a solution reacting to each set-back with new ideas of how to overcome any difficulty. In one special project, it was Virgil that eventually solved a very difficult design problem to allow us to deliver equipment to the government that was instrumental in the success of an important national project. On the behalf of his fellow workers, Sandia, and our government I want to express our respect and appreciation for his exceptional service in the national interest.*

Roger Hagengruber - June 11, 2014 at 10:09 AM

HH

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

Harold Hamilton - June 10, 2014 at 03:52 PM