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WILLIAMS, CARL M.

1928-2015

Passed away of natural causes surrounded by his family on November 27, 2015. The 4th son of a prominent ranching family, Carl was born on November 9, 1928 to the late John Walter and Eleanor Williams in Douglas, WY. He graduated from the University of North Carolina and went on to receive his law degree from the University of Wyoming. During the Korean War, he enrolled with the Wyoming Air National Guard and was called to active duty in the Air Force, where he flew both the famed P-51 Mustang and America's first jet fighter, The F-80 Shooting Star. Thus began Carl's lifelong love and passion for aviation.

After practicing law for less than four months, he partnered with cable legend Bill Daniels and became one of the founding fathers of America's budding cable television industry. After branching out on his own, he went on to build Televents, Inc., with systems throughout Wyoming, Colorado, California, Montana, and Florida.

In 1957, Carl fell in love with Ginny Williams, a fiery Virginia school teacher who came West to make her mark in the world. They moved to Denver and had two children, Elle and Mike.

In 1968, while building Televents, Inc., Carl was elected to the Colorado State Senate where he served as the Chairman of the State Senate Affairs Committee. He later went on to serve as Chairman of the Colorado Republican Party. He remained active in state and national politics for the rest of his life. A tireless philanthropist, Carl actively pursued and fought for the advancement of ethics and values in education, which lead him to establish and fund programs including the Carl M. Williams Chair for Ethics at the University of Wyoming, and the Carl M. Williams Institute of Ethics and Values at the University of Denver.

Always an advocate for higher education, Carl generously provided college tuition for a myriad of young people. Among the many charities that were dear to him were the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, The Arthritis Foundation, The Greenway Foundation, The Episcopal Church and The Colorado Symphony.

During retirement, Carl continued to pursue his love of aviation, competing at the intermediate level in national aerobatic competitions flying the legendary Pitts Special biplane. Carl's near obsession with biplanes traces itself back to his father, who owned an Alexander Eaglerock (a plane manufactured in Colorado Springs). So beloved was the Eaglerock to Carl that he restored not one but two examples, the first of which is on permanent display in Concourse B at Denver International Airport, and the second at Wings Over the Rockies' new Centennial Airport facility.

He is survived by Ginny Williams; daughter Elle P. Williams and her husband Greg Eggert of Sedona, AZ and Mike and Deepali Williams of Denver; and his grandchildren Michael, Cody and Lee.

A Memorial Service will be held Friday, December 4, 2015 at 2:30 pm, St. John's Cathedral, 1350 Washington St., Denver. Reception location will be announced after the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are being made in Carl's name to Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum. Please share memories with family by visiting HoranCares.com .
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