



Herbert W. Natzke

March 21, 1924 - July 8, 2017

Herbert W. Natzke, a retired banker who lived on his farm in Belen, New Mexico, passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 8, 2017, surrounded by his immediate family.

Mr. Natzke was born March 21, 1924 in Pine River, Wisconsin. He studied to become a Lutheran minister at a seminary in Milwaukee but when World War II began he volunteered for the Air Force. He became a combat navigator and flew 19 missions over Germany and Austria. His plane was shot down near the Auschwitz death camp December 17, 1944 and he was a prisoner of war until liberation in May 1945. Upon return to the U.S. he flew for another year in Asia until discharged in February 1947. He left active duty as a First Lieutenant earning 10 decorations and battle stars. He continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1972.

Mr. Natzke then enrolled in the University of Wisconsin, studying history and political science. He earned his BA in 1950 and his MA in 1951. He graduated as the top-ranking student in his class and was awarded membership in the Phi Beta Kappa scholastic fraternity.

In June 1951, he was recruited into the Central Intelligence Agency where he worked in the Clandestine Operations Directorate under legendary figures like Allen Dulles and Richard Helms. He spent 14 years in Germany, recruiting

agents and running them into Eastern Europe. From 1963-1966, he served in Munich, working with General Gehlen, the founder and chief of the German Intelligence Service. From 1966 to 1969, he was chief of the CIA's Base in West Berlin, one of the top operational jobs in the Agency.

In 1969, Mr. Natzke volunteered for service in Vietnam, although his son had been killed there only 18 months earlier. As Chief of the Saigon area, he was responsible for counterintelligence operations in Saigon. Over the next two years, using sophisticated techniques learned in Germany, he penetrated and arrested several high level North Vietnamese spy rings operating in Saigon and simultaneously rooted out and destroyed the Viet Cong terrorist networks which had carried out the TET Offensive in Saigon a year earlier. He received a high level decoration from then-President Nguyen Van Thieu for these accomplishments.

Upon his return to the U.S., Mr. Natzke served as Chief of Operations for the CIA's Latin American Division for three years and was Chief of Vietnam Operations during the collapse of Vietnam in 1975. Under President Gerald Ford, he served on the Presidential Committee to resettle Vietnamese refugees in the United States. In 1976, he was assigned to Manila, Philippines, where he served as Chief of Station until January 1980 when he retired.

Mr. Natzke then was offered a senior position with a Filipino-Chinese owned banking and trading conglomerate based in Manila. He worked for this company the next 16 years. When the company opened a bank in San Francisco, he moved to San Francisco to supervise the operation. He played a key role in organizing Oceanic Bank and overseeing the construction of its headquarters building in the financial district of San Francisco. He served as Vice Chairman of the bank until his final retirement in June 1996.

Mr. Natzke was first married to Helen Joyce Loud who died of cancer in 1971. From this marriage he had five children: Nicholas Lee Natzke, who was killed while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam, Kay Louise Galeotti of Maryland, Connie Asero of North Carolina, Christopher Karl Natzke of Georgia, and Karen Hagerman of Maryland. His second marriage to Rosella Aragon of Belen, New Mexico, produced two daughters, Aleksandra Natzke McCadden and Tatiana Natzke. Rosella lives on the family farm in Belen and the two daughters reside in California and Nevada. He has seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

The Natzke family wishes to thank the VA Home-Based Primary Care Team, Heritage Hospice and caregivers Maria Good and Teresa Towle for their kindness and loving care. Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 22, 2017 at the Cathedral Church of St. John, 318 Silver SW, Albuquerque. Visitation is at 9:00 am and the funeral service is at 10:00 am. Donations in his memory may be made to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 400 Huning Ranch West Loop, Los Lunas, NM 87031. His ashes will be interred at Culpeper National Cemetery, Virginia.

Please sign Mr. Natzke's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com
Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St. Belen, NM.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 22. 9:00 AM (MT)

Cathedral Church of St. John
318 Siver SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Memorial Service

JUL 22. 10:00 AM (MT)

Cathedral Church of St. John
318 Siver SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Tribute Wall



“ *Colorado Spruce Tree was purchased for the family of Herbert W. Natzke.*



August 08, 2017 at 01:51 PM



“ *Dearest Rosella, and Family,*

My deepest condolences on your loss of Herb. I find it difficult to accept that this gentleman who lived such a remarkable life is gone.

I remember when I was in Belem, he gifted me a copy of his memoirs "Falling Forever". It was educational, humorous, and insightful. Herb lived life to it's fullest. But now, may you and your loved ones, find comfort in the wealth of memories he left behind as a part of him.

My thoughts and prayers are with you. You know where I am.

Carrie Roudebush

Carrie Roudebush - July 24, 2017 at 07:15 PM



“ *I am saddened to hear of the death of Uncle Herb. You have my sympathy and prayers.*

Jenny Uttech VanRaden

Jenny VanRaden - July 22, 2017 at 03:28 PM

MG

“ Rosella,Aleka,Tanya,
My thoughts and prayers, are with the family
at this difficult time. Herb, was a exceptional
human being, top notch, let me say. He
impressed my son,Joseph and I, emensly. As
he did everyone he met, I'm sure. With his dignity, inteligents, and
great sense of humor. I am full of pride and honor, to be friends with
the natzke family. Herb will be greatly missed. I can't say enough ,
my heart goes out to the family.



Maria Good

Maria Good - July 21, 2017 at 09:02 AM

LL

“ Rosella and family. I was so sorry to hear of Herbs passing. What a
great man. I have great memories of our times spent together in the
Philippines. He was so accomplished in every thing he did. I
remember listening to his stories and talking with all of you. Thank
you for sharing your lives with me. Please let me know if I can help
in anyway.

Linda Lawyer

linda lawyer - July 20, 2017 at 10:18 PM

TT

“ Dear Rosella,

Delores and I are very sorry to hear about your husband's death.
Please do not fail to call upon us if you have any needs at this most
difficult time for you and your family. You are in our thoughts and
prayers.

Terry A Thomas - July 20, 2017 at 07:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Herbert W. Natzke.*



July 20, 2017 at 07:23 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Herbert W. Natzke.*



July 20, 2017 at 07:04 PM



“ *Dear Rosella and family:*

Ampie and I were so saddened to see your email this morning. I felt it a great privilege to have been able to spend time with Herb back in the Manila days and the time or two we visited in SF. I know you all are filled with great sadness. May the Lord bring peace to you, Tanya, Aleka (sp), and the rest of the family. God speed, Herb Natzke.

Love to all,

Ted & Ampie Toburen and family

Ted Toburen - July 20, 2017 at 01:22 PM

NR

“ Rosella, Aleka and Tanya -- sending you all the love my heart can muster. Mr. Natzke touched and influenced so many people. I have such fond memories of being with him and all of you during high school. Hanging out in his study, getting into political conversations and hearing about his stories from his life. He was so loving and made sure that we all felt like your house was our house. So incredibly sorry for your loss, he will be sorely missed. Sending all of you my love and prayers.

Naomi Greisman Rudolph - July 20, 2017 at 01:20 PM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Herbert W. Natzke.



July 19, 2017 at 05:59 PM



“ My family lived a few blocks from the Natzkes in SF and I attended school with Aleka who not only became my friend, but more like a sister. She came to my house one evening and left one of her school books that she needed for an upcoming assignment. We called and offered to bring it over, but Mr. Natzke wouldn't hear of it and insisted that he come down himself to pick up the book. I will always remember him as a doting father, a man of integrity, purpose and principle. He will be very much missed. We send you all of our love and will continue to keep your family in our prayers as you grieve the loss of you extremely precious loved one.
Sincerely, Erin Durrah and the Long Family.

Erin Durrah - July 19, 2017 at 02:29 PM



Tatiana
Natzke

Thank you Erin for your lovely comment. Sisters indeed! I deeply appreciate your condolences, as well as your friendship over the years.

Tatiana Natzke - July 19, 2017 at 09:55 PM

MD

“ Dear, dear Rosella. You are in my thoughts. I am wishing you well. And Herb is part of my memory! What an exceptional man! I am fortunate to have had those few conversations I did have with him, talking about God and faith.

Martha Dreesen

Your neighbor on Eddie Lane

I wish you peace and comfort.

Martha Dreesen - July 19, 2017 at 12:55 PM

KC

“ I had the great opportunity to meet Mr. Natzke when I worked in Belen. My condolences to the family. He was truly a great man but never eluded to his past achievements. What I admired the most was when he brought his daughters into the bank to help them understand their ownership in the bank and that I was the person responsible for this investments success along with the board. He brought them in over a period of at least 5 years. Each year I would hear about how the girls were doing in school and it became one of my best memories of Belen. I admired his discipline to bring them in each year; an amazing man. It was an honor to know him and be inspired by his wisdom and actions with his daughters.

Ken Carson - July 19, 2017 at 08:50 AM



Tatiana
Natzke

Hello Ken,

Thank you so much for sharing this memory- I remember visiting you at the bank so well! Dad was very keen on giving us girls an education in financial literacy. It was a hallmark of our relationship- how much time, effort, and care he took to ensure not only our financial security, but instill in us an understanding of the value of careful spending and the need for planning for the future. Your comment is greatly appreciated.

*With care,
Tatiana Natzke*

Tatiana Natzke - July 19, 2017 at 09:54 PM

DP

“ *Diana Phillips Ulibarri (Belen Public lit a candle in memory of Herbert W. Natzke*



Diana Phillips Ulibarri (Belen Public - July 18, 2017 at 11:53 AM

MA

“ Dear Rosella, Aleka and Tanya,

The Armanino family has a vivid and fond memory of Herb which includes all of you.

We fondly recollect the lively and festive Christmas Eves we spent together in San Francisco - Herb telling us about his life adventures (as we sipped cognac in the front room) while seven kids ran gleefully through our house! We recall the many lovely dinner parties hosted by Rosella on Fourteen Avenue - there was never a lull in those conversations! You could always gaze about Herb's house to get a glimpse of what his life was like, as the walls, furniture, pictures and miscellaneous were always exotic treasures from his extensive travels.

Herb's knowledge of history was astonishing! He was able to remember even the smallest details from his life, usually sprinkled with a bit of dry humor! We never tired listening to Herb talk about anything!

We are grateful for Herb's friendship all these years. Our five girls speak about Herb with great respect. He was among the last of the World War 11 veterans, and we feel fortunate that Herb shared his story-telling talents with them.

May Mr. Natzke rest in peace. He was a strong, courageous, intelligent man who carried on his duties in a most admirable way.

*Much love to you all,
Michele Armanino, John Armanino, Marisa Armanino Williams,
Christina Lalanne Temmerman , Elizabeth Lalanne Hackard, Dana
Armanino and Michaella Armanino.*

Michele Armanino - July 18, 2017 at 10:09 AM



Tatiana
Natzke

Hello Michele,

Thank you for posting this comment. You and the whole Armanino family have held such a special place in our hearts as lifelong friends. I know that Dad had deep respect for you and John, and consistently held you both up to me and Aleka as role models.

*With love,
Tanya Natzke*

Tatiana Natzke - July 19, 2017 at 10:01 PM

NS

Rosella, Aleka and Tanya:

Even though I only got to spend a short time with Mr, Herb, I knew how lucky I was to meet him. After reading his obituary I feel deeply blessed.

We didnt get to spend alot on time in New Mexico, only arriving for the engagement party for Kevin and Aleka. I remember sitting in the dining area as two families for dinner, chatting as we were long lost friends. We felt lucky to be so welcomed. Mr. Herb , I could tell listening to him speak was two fold...that he was a very intelligent gentleman and his family meant the world to him.

I learned alot about the Natzke family from being close to Rosella after the wedding, keeping in close and speaking often. As well as seeing Aleka and Kevin and my biggest joy in life, Nicholas, only but once a year. Military life is rough, but I think I should have had a long talk with Rosella about that issue.

One of my greatest joys was seeing the pictures of Mr. Herb holding Nicholas, it never failed, when Mr. Herb held him, he smiled....I often joked that he was tickling him.

I feel so lucky that my son fell in with the woman of his dreams and had much love and admiration for Mr. Herb. Yes, my son chose well into such a warm and loving family and that too I am blessed for.

Please know your family will be kept in prayer for one of the darkest days and if I could I would fly there and wrap you all in my arms. I wept when I read Mr. Herbs obituary and I cry now but know my thoughts are with each of you and please give my son a hug and kiss from his mom as I know he is grieving right along with you.

Sincerely with a very heavy heart,

Nancy

Nancy Soper - July 21, 2017 at 04:35 PM

WT

“ With love, Denise Lewis & Patty Thometz purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Herbert W. Natzke.



With love, Denise Lewis & Patty Thometz - July 17, 2017 at 04:01 PM

LT

“ Love, Denise Lewis & Patty Thometz purchased the Ghirardelli & Fruit Condolences Gift Basket for the family of Herbert W. Natzke.



Love, Denise Lewis & Patty Thometz - July 15, 2017 at 09:22 AM

NP

“ dear uncle Herb, I will miss our talks about my education and what I have accomplished each year in school. I will be going into 7th grade and even though I won't run into your office to tell you my schedule this year I think you will know I am doing well anyway. I will try real hard. I miss you. love, Natalie Elizabeth Perkins. My grandma misses you too.

natalie perkins - July 13, 2017 at 10:45 PM

DR

“ Dicky And Suzanne Romero sent a virtual gift in memory of Herbert W. Natzke



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - July 13, 2017 at 05:33 PM



Rosella, Tanya, Aleka,

I was so saddened to hear of the passing of an incredible man.

I feel so honored to have known him. I can't imagine that he could have had a better wife/mate than Rosella or two more beautiful, smart and thoughtful young women as his daughters Tanya and Aleka. You three are a beautiful reflection of this intelligent, warm, wise great man. How blessed he was to have you three in his life and how blessed you were to have him as husband and father. Wrapping you all in love, beautiful thoughts as you travel through this difficult, heart-breaking transition in your lives. Lots of love!!

victoria silva wilger - July 27, 2017 at 04:10 PM