

WILLIAM JOSEPH MLECZKO

Bill passed away peacefully at his Somis home on 18 June 2016. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 16 July 1925, the son of Andrew Mleczo and Julia Gdowska Mleczo who emigrated from Poland to Chicago. Bill served in the US Marines in WWII. He was a graduate Aeronautical Engineer, who first worked for NACA (now NASA) before transferring to work as a civilian for the US Air Force. His early years were spent as a flight test engineer at Wright Field, Ohio before concentrating his career on aerospace technology analysis at the Foreign Technology Division (now NASIC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, where he worked from 1950 to 1973. He was a nationally-recognized expert in space launch vehicles and received many awards for his work as an engineer and technical intelligence analyst. He retired from FTD in 1973. Bill was a private pilot with 3000 hours of flying time, and was a licensed Aircraft and Powerplants mechanic. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and had built and flown a Smith Miniplane, a fully aerobatic biplane. After retiring to California, he and his wife built a home in Somis, a 4-year feat with help only from his wife and then 80-year-old mother. A life-long do-it-yourselfer, he pursued and accomplished many things, often self-taught. Bill was proud of his Polish heritage, his service as a Marine in WWII, and his career as an Air Force employee. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Doris, daughter Colleen, sister Jinx (Genevieve) Mercer, and many nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. The family thanks Camarillo Hospice and Livingston Memorial caregivers, especially Teresa and Kate, for their care and support during Bill's final days. *A Memorial Service/Celebration of Life will be held on 27 August 2016 at 11:00 am, at Camarillo United Methodist Church, 291 Anacapa Drive, Camarillo, CA, reception/lunch to follow in Brooks Hall at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Camarillo United Methodist Church Endowment Fund Scholarship Ministry at Camarillo United Methodist Church.*