



SCOTT KELLER

Yesterday, October 8th, my brother and I celebrated our dad's 100th birthday. Unfortunately, he wasn't with us - at least not physically. We remembered L. Scott Keller I, by bow hunting elk in the same area we last hunted with him. It was during his birthday in 1990 (29 seasons ago).

He was born in Logan, Utah in 1918, and was raised in northern Utah and southern Idaho. He attended college at Utah State and earned his pilot wings in the Army Air Corps' Cadet Program in early 1943 (his grandson Scott III now wears those wings). He flew combat missions as a C-47 Captain, towing gliders full of extremely brave men and dropping paratroopers (no less brave) behind enemy lines.

He worked as a pilot for several civilian companies after the war including Western (now part of Delta). By 1947 he was Chief Pilot of Challenger Airlines based in Salt Lake. They merged with Monarch Airlines out of Denver and Arizona Airways out of Phoenix to form Frontier Airlines (now part of United by way of Continental). As a side note, although he retired in 1978, before Airline Deregulation, he despised what it did to the industry especially with the likes of Frank Lorenzo.

I have flown with over 1,000 professional pilots in my shortened career. Some were incredible pilots, like Smokey Richard G-Smokey Young, as one example. There are various gauges of a pilot's skill, but without any hint of doubt, the best hands belonged to my father. Anyone who ever flew with him will concur. When he was flying, it was difficult to tell where he ended and the airplane began. For any young pilots out there, the key is loving what you do and taking every opportunity to continue improving. Well, he finished with over 40,000 hours logged in the 60 years he actively flew.

He was always a gentleman - I miss him and the men of his generation who were honorable people full of integrity, standing firm in their beliefs, but always being respectful of those who disagreed.

He truly was a great guy and an awesome Dad. It was a good day of hunting with my favorite hunting buddy, unfortunately, we had the same hunting success yesterday we had 29 seasons ago and without our best pal - our Dad.

Happy birthday dad!

-Rob Keller, Oct 9, 2018