

Wiley J. Parker
1927 - 2018
Obituary



Wiley J. Parker, age 91, of Sun City West, took his final flight west on May 7, 2018. Wiley was born in Hachita, New Mexico on January 13, 1927 to Bonner ("Barney") and Micaela (Espino) Parker. He grew up in Hachita with his parents and brothers, Barney, Pat, Matt and Jack. Mr. Parker attended New Mexico A & M and received his AEM certificate in 1948. Wiley was an Aviation Machinist in the United States Navy toward the end of WWII as well as in the Korean War.

He moved to Phoenix and in December of 1951, he married Esther Parker with whom he raised six daughters. Wiley worked as an Aircraft Mechanic for various carriers such as: Frontier, Bonanza, Hughes Air West, and ended his career as a Quality Control Inspector for America West Airlines. After retiring, Wiley enjoyed a successful consulting practice focused on the Boeing 737, which included testifying before the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C. His expertise also helped develop proprietary inspection equipment. Mr. Parker's passion for anything aviation related was evident in the numerous fly-ins he attended after acquiring his pilot's license and a vintage 1946 Cessna 140 in 1993.

A baseball fan from far back, Mr. Parker's favorite team was the Diamondback's and was fortunate to watch them win their World Series Title and play from the US Airway's skybox. Wiley's faith was a large part of his life. He served as an usher for over 65 years in various churches throughout the valley, and served as Parish Council President at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel's in Tempe, AZ. Instilling in his daughters the importance of education, Wiley worked hard to put all six daughters through 12 years of parochial school; each earned a college degree. These Parker women were among the first generation in their extended family to do so.

Mr. Parker's proudest achievement was the Federal Aviation Administration's Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award that recognizes the lifetime accomplishments of senior mechanics who have worked 50 years perfecting their craft. Wiley had a corny sense of humor that could make you groan or laugh until your sides hurt and he loved having fun. We realize where we get that mischievous side of us!

Wiley was a lifelong learner, an avid reader, lover of music, and consummate mechanic who was able to maintain and repair nearly anything that could break down, especially automobiles. Ever valuing the privilege and responsibility of civic participation, he never missed the opportunity to vote and was a regular blood donor. His 'Twenty Gallon' plaque from the Red Cross brought a smile to his face.

Mr. Parker is survived by wife, Esther Parker, Debbie Parker (Tony Brunkala), Liz Parker-Johnson (Frank Schaffner), Sandy Parker, Annette Parker-Bular (Ed Bular), Yvonne Parker (Dann Gesink), Cecilia Parker (Seth Basen), former son-in-law, Jack Johnson. Grandchildren include, Laurel Johnson, Marissa Johnson, (Patrick Foley), Matthew Flanigan, Jenny Brunkala, Eleanor Basen, and Dune Gesink. Siblings include Barney Parker (Geneva), Matt Parker, and Jack Parker. His father, Bonner, predeceases Wiley, mother, Micaela, brother, Patrick and favorite cousin, Charlie.

Special thank to the wonderful, caring staff of Friendship Village Hospice of the Valley and Brookdale North Chandler.

Funeral services will be held on the following day: Funeral Mass: Friday, May 18 10:00 AM at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 19002 N. 128th Ave., Sun City West, AZ 85375. A Color Guard Ceremony will be held immediately following the mass at the main church entrance outside. The reception is to be held after the Color Guard Ceremony.

Interment will take place at the National Memorial Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul or Habitat for Humanity. Visit www.caminodelsol.com to offer online condolences.