

Record 11-29-2012
KEITH WOODS SHARER

Keith Woods Sharer, 89, of Coronado, Calif., died at home on Oct. 15 of a stroke. Keith was born to Austin Charles and Dorothy Woods Sharer on April 29, 1923, in Montezuma. Keith was graduated from Montezuma High School in 1940. Beginning in his early years, Keith developed a life long passion for aviation. At the age of 18, in August, 1941, Keith made his first solo

flight in Grinnell. He attended Iowa State College of 1940, studying aeronautical engineering. During his sophomore year, he acquired co-ownership of a Piper J-3 Cub, and dropped out of Iowa State to pursue his commercial pilots license with instructor rating, so he could join the military service. After Army Air Corps, training in San Antonio, Texas, Keith received his Navy commission in 1942. Keith became a flight instructor at NAS Ottumwa. In October 1944, at the end of the war, he joined a fleet operational fighter squadron. When atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, and World War II was over, Keith decided to retain his reserve commission.

In 1947, he married Jone Colleen Fox, and held various positions in commercial aviation.

Keith was recalled to active duty in June 1950, when the Korean War began, and reported to San Diego, Calif. He remained in the Navy after the Korean War, and received orders to join a large navy air transport squadron, flying new Douglas DC-6s, at Moffet Field, near San Francisco. He attended the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island.

The highlight of Keith's naval aviation career occurred when he received command of VP-10, a naval air squadron flying the new Lockheed Orion, from 1968-1970, out of NAS, Brunswick, Maine.

Subsequent orders included a deep draft command of the USS Chipola out of Honolulu from 1968-1970, during the Vietnam War, and a tour with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, in Washington, DC, after which Keith retired from the Navy in 1973 as a captain.

After retirement, Keith and his wife, Jone, split their time between their home in Plattsburgh, New York, and the San Diego area. After Jone's death in 1996, Keith moved to Coronado.

Keith married Betty Tappan, also of Coronado, in 1999.

Keith is survived by his wife, Betty Tappan Sharer; his sister, Phyllis Ince, of Bethesda, Md.; his children; Kevin Woods Sharer of Los Angeles; Jane Sharer Vaziri of Beverly Hills; and Beth Sharer Bardo, of Burke, Virginia; Keith is also survived by five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services for Keith were on Oct. 30.