



## **Goeden, Ervin H.**

**LtCol USAF (Ret) Age 93**

**1924- 2018**

**Lt. Colonel USAF (Ret) Ervin H. Goeden, a perfectly healthy 93-year-old veteran, was taken abruptly from this life due to an auto mobile accident near Nashville, IL, January 5, 2018. Ervin was born in 1924 in Grafton, WI, to parents August and Edith Rice Goeden. Erv joined the Army Air Corps during his**

**senior year at Port Washington, WI, High School. He received B-17 bomber flight and bombardier training before being sent to join the Eighth Air Force in England. After the war in Europe ended, he received extensive training in B-29 bombers and was assigned to many different locations within the United States. After attending navigation school in Houston, TX, and Sacramento, CA, he transferred to Forbes Air Force Base in Topeka, KS. He was assigned to the 55th Reconnaissance Wing. RB-47 crews flew their reconnaissance missions worldwide. After 12 years at Forbes, he was reassigned to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, NE, where he was responsible for the training of navigators in the 55th Recon Wing prior to his retirement after 29 years in the Army Air Corps and U.S. Air Force. Erv married his high school sweetheart, Vernetta Fellenz, in October 1944. They were married over 29 years when she died of pancreatic cancer in 1974. He then married Patricia (Flint) Tomasello in November 1975 and they have enjoyed over 42 years of marriage, visiting family and friends in several states, as well as attending annual military group reunions. In addition to his first wife Vernetta, Erv is also pre-deceased by his parents; brothers: Alvin, Vernon and Orville Goeden; sisters: Sylvia La Flex, Viola Kohler, and Virginia Goeden; infant son, Robert Edward Goeden; and stillborn great-grandson, Jacob Goeden. Erv is survived by wife, Patricia Goeden; brothers, Kenneth Goeden and Armand (Ruth) Goeden; son, Bruce (Diana) Goeden; daughters, Sherrie Goeden and Betty Damron; stepson, Gene (Tammy) Tomasello; grandchildren: Heather Rohr, Robert (Michelle) Goeden, Trudy (Phillip) Pittenger, Bobby Damron, and B.J. Damron; step-grandchildren, Dan Tomasello and Valerie (Logan) Meyers, John (Dinel) Cropper, Lisa Cropper (Leah), Sara (Marquies) Weaver, and Michael (Sarah) Phillips. In addition, he is survived by eight great-grandchildren, 11 step - great - grandchildren, two great - great - grandchildren and one step-great-great-grandchild. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. All will miss him very much. Cremation has taken place and services will take place later.**

Sam, his wife Pat, and her son (driver) were on the way to Florida ... out side St Louis, went off the road and hit a tree. Sam did not make it. Pat has broken arm and leg in hospital likely in St Louis...  
--- Sam was a WWII vet, and was in the 55th forever at Forbes and Offutt. Role model to every navigator who passed thru the wing. S-01 , sqd nav, wing nav ... Max

**From: Reg Urschler <[thegunfighter@cox.net](mailto:thegunfighter@cox.net)> Date: Sat, Jan 6, 2018 at 11:12 AM**

**Gents:**

*It's with very heavy heart I inform you of the passing of a 55<sup>th</sup> Icon Sam Goeden.*

*I was advised this morning that Sam and Pat were run off the road and into tree near St. Louis on the their annual migration to Florida for the Winter.*

*Sam was evacuated by life flight to St Louis where he did not survive. Pat is in hospital with broken bones.*

*These are the only details I have. I would encourage you check the 55<sup>th</sup> web site in the coming days for further information and possible details.*

*Sam was one of the original RB-47H cadre and flew with Don Mather for years. Our association goes back to 1955. How sad he should leave us in this manner after having flown combat during WW II in B-17s and all the time he spent in recce flying the periphery of the Soviet Union and China.*

*Sam mentored many young navigators...and copilots...always in a calm and respectful manner. I never once saw him get excited or angry. He was the epitome of the definition of "gentle man".*

*He will be missed terribly but his influence and contributions will be recognized, appreciated and remembered as long as any of us are here to remember him.*

*Blue Skies, Tail Winds and happy Landings Sam. 'Til we meet again.*

**Reg**