

218-A Biographical (Blakemore) 2008

# OBITUARIES



*Mineral Co. Independent News*

## \* Richard E. (Rick) BLAKEMORE

An aviator at heart, took his final flight with the Angels at sunrise Monday, December 31, 2007 at age 85 in Hawthorne, Nevada. He was born September 21, 1922 in Parsons, Kansas.

He grew up in Southern California joining the United States Navy in 1940. He served aboard the U.S.S. Saratoga in the Western and South Pacific Theatre during WWII, achieving the rank of Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate prior to his discharge in November 1946. During his time in the Navy he was a turret gunner in a Torpedo Bomber (TBF) where he re-discovered his love of flying, learning the rudiments of flying during this time.

After leaving the Navy he flew for Fairchild and Hycon Aerial Surveys doing high altitude survey and magnetometer work throughout North and South America spending an additional few years as a bush pilot in Alaska. He is best remembered for starting Mustang Charter Air Service in Tonopah, Nevada.

He was well known as a pilot, flying air passenger and other services for Sandia National Laboratories at the Tonopah Test Range, in addition to frequent Aircraft Ferry work for corporations and individuals as contracted.

He served 12 years in the Nevada State Legislature from 1972-1984, becoming the 3<sup>rd</sup> ranking Senator in the Nevada State Senate. He is widely acknowledged as the Father of the "Sagebrush Rebellion" now thought of as States Rights.

He was preceded in death by his father John B. Blakemore, three grandchildren David Wayne (1979), Lindsey Fox (1982) and Jacob Paul (2005), his mother Carolyn Fox (1986), and his brother John Fox (1995). He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Angie, and his five children: Jann Van Horn (Carl), Karen Moore, Rick and Cindy Blakemore, Brian and Shelle Blakemore, John and Suzette Blakemore; as well as nine grandchildren: Cameron Ross (Rick and Cindy), Katherine Casey (Karen Moore), Joshua Shawn, Zachariah Scott, Kaylee Roshelle, Catherine Fox "Kitfox" (Brian and Shelle), Chelsea McKelle, Mariesa Jenac, Christian John (John and Suzette).

Plans for a Memorial Service and a Celebration of Life are pending. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Salvation Army, Tonopah, Nevada.

## Gaylyn SPRIGGS

The Independent-News received word on Tuesday that former Hawthorne resident Gaylyn Spriggs passed away Monday, January 7, 2008 in the Carson Tahoe Hospital in Carson City.

Gaylyn was a life long resident of Hawthorne for many years and was Mineral County Assessor and also a State Assemblywoman.

Funeral services will be held in Carson City. Time and location was not known at press time.

*1-10-08*