

Lieutenant Colonel Victor Tatelman passed away at home on February 7, 2016. Victor, or Vic as so many knew him, was a member of 345th Bombardment, and the 499th Bomb Group. He flew B-25's Dirty Dora and Dirty Dora II during WW II and participated in many pivotal campaigns. He earned two purple hearts, a Presidential citation, a distinguished flying cross, and many other honors. Vic was, by all accounts, a war hero, but he is remembered as so much more. He was a friend, a partner, a father, a mentor, and his loss is deeply felt.

The stories of his adventures during the war were particular favorites of bombardment reunion attendees and fellow veterans. While telling them, his laughter would roll around the room at the good parts, and his meaningful looks carried with them a seriousness that added weight to the solemn. Stories like the attack made on Ropopo, when weather almost defeated the mission before it had begun by leaving over 50 planes unexpectedly exposed at low levels, earned that serious look. Then other stories, like the time he got his plane stuck in mud hole while playing host to two photo journalists, earned the deep and hearty laugh that Vic was known for.

When people speak about meeting him, his laughter is the first thing they mention. It was deep and contagious. That laugh could be heard rolling down the hallways as it escaped rooms meant to contain it. When he attended bombardment reunions people would always seek him out and try to get him laughing. He was generous with his laughter as well as his attention, it made people feel welcome and heard. Though he was a good story teller Vic wouldn't dominate the conversation. He very much liked to be an observer and would listen attentively to the stories that others told. He found as much joy in the reminiscences of others as he did in his own. This too endeared him to many.

As generous as he was with his laughter and time, Vic was also proud and private. He preferred to be remembered as he was, a "damn good pilot" and friend. Vic asked that there be no ceremony and was cremated after his passing. Though Vic is no longer with us he is remembered with respect and admiration. He touched countless lives and left a legacy that will be remembered for generations.

Thank you Vic, for your service, your generosity, your time, and your laughter. Rest in peace.

Lieutenant Colonel Victor Tatelman
November 18, 1920 - February 7, 2016