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**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**  
Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018  
10:00 AM

Royal Palms Resort  
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Kelsey Lua Boltz

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Kelsey Lua Boltz

Phoenix - March 31, 1930 - October 9, 2017

Kelsey Lua Boltz (87) passed away peacefully, in the arms of his family, on Monday, October 9, 2017. Kelsey leaves behind his devoted wife of 54 years, Barbara (Bradstreet) Boltz; his son, Karl; daughter, Andrea; and grandchildren, Kai, Luc, Gloria, Rebekka and Kelsey R. He was a hero, mentor, supporter, and friend to his children and was adored by his five grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, children and grandchildren, Kelsey is also survived by two siblings: his sister Paula Boltz, an accomplished soprano vocalist, pianist, and educator; and his brother Jon D. Boltz, an attorney and retired US federal district judge.

Kelsey was born in Springfield, Ohio, on March 31, 1930, to parents, Earl F. Boltz, Sr. and Bessie Eidson Boltz. At the time of his birth, Kelsey's family lived in a converted, one-room chicken coop. At age 5, Kelsey and his family moved to Colorado. It was there that he began to develop the strong work ethic and clean sense of humor familiar to his colleagues, friends and family.

As a young teenager his family settled in Phoenix, Arizona. Kelsey attended North Phoenix High School and Phoenix College. He excelled academically and played baseball competitively, in both high school and college.

After obtaining his undergraduate degree, Kelsey attended and graduated from the Colorado School of Mines ("CSM"). Thus, he began a sixty-five-year career as a geological engineer and entrepreneur. Kelsey founded numerous companies across the globe, both private and public. He was a lifetime member of the US Geological Society and the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

Kelsey lived life with pure gusto. Over the years, he availed himself of life's many opportunities. He was a professional baseball player, pilot, outdoorsman and musician.

Kelsey played in baseball's minor leagues (1950-1952), for both the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Philadelphia Phillies, using the earnings to pay his tuition at CSM. He earned his private

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pilot license at age sixteen and over the years, accumulated over 6,000 hours of pilot-in-command flight time. Kelsey began flying aerial acrobatics competitions at the age 70. He also purchased and flew two Spanish fighter jets, one of which he eventually donated to an air museum in Indiana.

Kelsey could not serve in the armed forces. He had siblings, relatives, and many friends that did, and he always held deep respect for their sacrifices to defend our freedoms. They were his heroes.

Always an avid outdoorsman, Kelsey enjoyed backpacking with his family in numerous wilderness areas throughout Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado. He loved to fly fish for trout and was skilled at preparing his catch and eating them! Kelsey's worldwide travels included the Mexican back-country, the Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and many islands in between.

Kelsey was a gifted musician, having learned to play the ukulele by age six and later the piano, guitar and banjo. During his youth, he performed, along with his siblings, (Earl F. Boltz, Jr. [1929-1999], Jon, and Paula) in his parents' group, the Hawaiian Heirs. With the Hawaiian Heirs, Kelsey recorded four albums of traditional Hawaiian music. Kelsey's musical tastes were diverse; he loved Bluegrass, Bossanova, Jazz, Country and Western. He also enjoyed traditional Mexican ballads and classical music as well.

Kelsey was straight-shooting, even-keeled, well-loved, and admired by many. He set a magnanimous example to family and friends, as he was always willing to help those with a deserving need.

A celebration of Kelsey's life will begin promptly on Saturday, February 10th, 10:00 am, at the Royal Palms Resort, 5200 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85018

PLEASE RSVP at: [KLB.Celebration@gmail.com](mailto:KLB.Celebration@gmail.com)

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Kelsey can be made to the Colorado School of Mines Foundation at this link:  
[http://giving.mines.edu/s/840/start\\_foundation.aspx](http://giving.mines.edu/s/840/start_foundation.aspx) Thank you!

Published in The Arizona Republic from Jan. 14 to Jan. 28, 2018

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