



San Diego Chapter 1 Member Biography

Roger Drinkwalter

Roger was born on April 15, 1922 in Zumbro Falls, Minnesota. He grew up on a farm there.

When World War II broke out, like so many young men of his day, he signed up for duty with the Army Air Corps.

He enjoyed pilot training in sunny Southern California, and began a journey he could only have dreamed about.

February 19, 1943 saw Roger reporting for duty to Jefferson Barracks in Missouri. After more training he was transferred to the 390th Bomb Group, Framlingham, England (13th Wing), where he picked up his plane, the "Belle of the Brawl".

His first nine missions were "routine", if such a thing existed, but his tenth was anything but. Shot down, and found by the enemy, he was hosed as a POW in Stalag Luft 1, in Barth, Germany. There he stayed from January 5, 1945 until he was liberated by the Russian Army on April 29, 1945.

Roger worked in the United States Air Force for the next twenty years, and retired as a Lt. Colonel.



Airplanes were always a love of Roger's, even much later in life.

After the war, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Dairy Industry from the University of Minnesota. He married his college sweetheart, Ann, and on a snowy spring day in 1947 they embarked on the beginning of their shared life's adventures.

Starting in San Francisco with Golden State Foods (later Foremost Dairies), his career opportunities led them to Fort Bragg, CA; San Luis Obispo, Ca; and eventually on to San Diego, Ca; where they settled in.

Retirement from the dairy industry was the beginning of his commercial and home mortgage career. After one more retirement, he and Ann traveled the world, living one adventure after another. Their globe-

trotting took them to such highlights as South America, Russia, Scandinavia, China, Europe, New Zealand and Australia, just to name a few.

Always busy, Roger made friends easily, and had many. He was active in the U of M Alumni Association, his Fraternity AGR, Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge, Daedalians, MOAA, Rotary Club, and Toastmasters.

He enjoyed family trips camping and sharing time with others.