

Colonel William Donald Sinclair (USAF Retired) was born in Inglewood, California, to Arthur and Lillian Sinclair on December 27, 1924. He was preceded in death by his beloved bride of 51 years, Barbara Jean Sinclair (Hughes), on May 4, 2010 (aged 86), and by his five siblings: Robert, John, Richard, Diane and Hazel. Bill passed away on January 7, 2026.

Bill was a graduate of Inglewood High School and St. Martin's University in Lacey, Washington. He met his wife Barbara at Los Angeles International Airport where they both worked following WWII. Bill was employed by United Airlines while Barbara worked for TWA.

His 32-year military career was long, illustrious, and distinguished. Bill was drafted into the United States Army during WWII on 26 March 1943. Bill served on active duty from 1943-1945 in the ranks of Corporal, Flight Officer, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and in the US Army Reserves from 1945-1947 whereupon he transferred to become a pilot in the United States Air Force from 1947-1975. Flight Officer Sinclair heroically led 17 WWII combat missions over war-torn Germany and former Yugoslavia dropping bombs to stop Hitler's Third Reich. He executed the bombing missions as the lead navigator on board the Consolidated B-24 Liberator while stationed in the Southern boot of Italy from the winter of 1944 to the spring of 1945. In 1951, Lt. Sinclair completed an amazing 109 Korean War air-to-ground combat missions earning the United States Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1972 to 1973, Colonel Sinclair was called into combat for the third time in his career logging more than 900 combat hours during the Vietnam War onboard a Lockheed EC-130 where he controlled and directed the air battle over Vietnam. Over his 32-year military career, Colonel Sinclair flew 17 combat missions/over 100 combat hours in WWII, 109 combat missions/over 100 combat hours in the Korean War, and in Vietnam more than 100 combat missions/900 combat hours accumulating 5700 total career flying hours. He retired in the rank of full-bird Colonel in 1975.

There is a wonderful documentary which details his military exploits in the Library of Congress, "[Veterans History Project Collection: Korean War in the Air, William Donald Sinclair Collection](#)."

In 1975, the Sinclairs moved back to Colorado Springs where Bill remained for the next fifty years. Although he retired from the military, Bill's passion for service did not cease. Bill served the Colorado Springs community by participating in city and state government, his church, and the Rotary Club of Colorado Springs. Bill's love of Rotary began in 1978 and continued for an astounding 48 years. During his 48-year stint in Rotary, Bill served as President (1985-1986), was Rotarian of the Year (1987), and was an 8-time Paul Harris Fellow which was awarded to him for significant contributions to the Rotary Foundation and for his dedication to "service above self."

Following his retirement, he worked for several churches as a church business administrator. As he could rarely sit still, Bill moved onto his next venture. From 1996-2004, Bill served honorably and with distinction as a Republican in the Colorado State House of Representatives as the District 16, Colorado Springs Congressman. He won the general election in 1996 with an amazing 66% of the vote, the 1998 general election with an amazing 68% of the vote, the 2000 general election with 58% of the vote, and the 2002 general election with 66% of the vote. He was known for “reaching across the aisle” to accomplish many things. At 80 years of age, in 2004, he decided not to run for re-election to the Colorado State House of Representatives but was asked by the Colorado Democrat Governor to assist him in Colorado State Military Veterans Affairs, which Bill did for the next four years.

Following his state representative service, he and his wife enjoyed traveling the world and spending time with family. They went on countless cruises, traveled through Europe with friends and visited Hawaii several times. Bill, Barb and the family thoroughly enjoyed their 40+ years memberships at both Garden of the Gods Resort and Club and Colorado Springs Country Club, where the family was active socially and Barb and Scott were avid golfers.

They were content to enjoy each other and their loving family. Bill is survived by his son, Scott, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and daughter, Vicky, of Rockwall, Texas. He is also survived by his wonderful grandchildren: Ashley Allbritton (David) of Bellevue, Washington; Rachael Fujiwara (Garrett) of Richardson, Texas; Wesley Sinclair (Samantha) of Kirkland, Washington; Jordan Sinclair (Megan) of Seattle, Washington; and Kate Sinclair of Tacoma, Washington. Additionally, 8 great grandchildren survive him.

Bill passed peacefully in his home on January 7, 2026, at an amazing 101 years of age. We celebrate Bill's life as a brave, caring, compassionate and loving journey. He will be dearly missed, but for now and evermore is with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The public Viewing is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Shrine of Remembrance, 1730 E. Fountain Blvd, Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

**Additionally, the Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., at Shrine of Remembrance.** In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Rotary Club of Colorado Springs or First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs in honor of William Donald Sinclair.