



## Gunnar M. Hellsten

February 18, 1920 - July 21, 2007

Gunnar M. “Swede” Hellsten was born in Bessemer, Michigan on February 18, 1920, and passed away on July 21, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas. He was in the USAF during WWII, Korean Conflict and Vietnam. After serving in the military for over 30 years he retired and went to work for Northrup Aircraft Corp. He is preceded in death by his brothers Bernard Hellsten, and Al Hellsten. Swede is survived by his loving wife, Agatha Hellsten, Daughter, Kaaren A. Hack, and husband, Mike. Sons: Karl G. Hellsten, John Hellsten, Joseph E. Hellsten, and wife, Melody. Sisters: Ruth Reid of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Wilma Videtich of Manistique, Mich. 9 grandchildren: Kara-Marie Hack, Cody Hack, Helen Martell and husband Nathan, Cathy Hellsten, Kyle Hellsten, Mimi Hellsten, Myanna Hellsten, Dezie Hellsten, and Joseph Hellsten. 3 great-grandchildren: Noah, Hannah, and Sara Martell.

### Services

A Rosary will be recited at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. A funeral mass will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, July 25, 2007 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Fort Sam Houston National cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Christus Santa Rosa Home Health Care, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church or charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Swede will be greatly missed. I served under him in Taif, Saudi Arabia. He was a great leader

John Mazzella - August 21, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Read the sad news in todays Herald. I worked for Chief Hellsten at Laughlin and Randolph. He was a great supervisor and I loved working for him. I will always have great memories of him. My sympathy to the entire family.

Branch Robby Robinson - August 09, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ May the Lord be with you in your time of grief. Alamo Smarts friends are praying for you.

Ralph & Gena Sanders - July 25, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ To the Hellsten Family, We want to express our deepest sympathy and offer our sincerest prayers in the loss of Mr Hellsten. It was always a welcome site to see him and Mrs Hellsten outside on the corner. We also appreciate the way Mr Hellsten helped ou

The Francis Children - July 25, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Yes, I will miss your calls, Gunnar you helped me through my time of sorrow. Thank you big brother. I can hear your voice now. Agatha, You are strong and your love for each other will get you through the days and nights. My sympathy to you and your ca

Ruth M. Reid - July 25, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ On behalf of Sandy Breese and myself, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Hellsten family. Swede was a great man and Sandy and I both enjoyed working with and getting to know him during the Peace Hawk Program days. He will be missed.

---

**Robin Williams Belanger** - July 25, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ You touched me and our family in so many ways. I'm grateful to have to spent time with you at Myanna's graduation. You were an amazing man. I hold deep within me so many wonderful things...thank you....thank you...thank you...you will be missed but you

---

**Donna Hellsten** - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ What a man! He gave me heart-felt mentorship after the death of my father and shaped my views on life since that time. Although Swede is no longer with us in the flesh, his words of wisdom and deeds are very much alive and continuing to serve others well

---

**Bob Tullgren** - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ Dear Agatha,

*Our condolences to all the Hellsten family.*

*We are really sorry to hear about uncle Gunnar. God bless you All*

---

**Fatima Ibnousalah, Salah, Ilham and Nabil Bani** - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ OUR LOVE TO A GREAT AMERICAN AND MAN

STAN/PAULA WEEKS - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HI

“ God Bless All Of You..He made a lot of good friends over the years especially those who served with him at the Soo.Kinross

Herman D. Irvin - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BU

“ John,

*Please accept our deepest sympathies during this time. Our thoughts are with you and your family.*

**Brian Castrucci and the Family Health Research and Program Development Unit** - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Our sincere condolences, Fond memories of our years in Arabia. Ed & Charlene

Edwrd & Charlene Stipech - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Gunnar M. Hellsten

Robert & Ida Stricker - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ We worked with Swede in Saudi Arabia. He was always cheerful, friendly and set a good example. We are proud to have known him. Are best wishes to all his family. Sincerely, Bruce and Serife Foxworthy

---

**Bruce Foxworthy** - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ "You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was." - Abraham Lincoln  
Papa, thank you for the memories - what I have learned from you has made me who I am today and hopefully the person I am to become.

---

**Kara-Marie Hack** - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ *Gunnar M. Hellsten*

---

**Fred & Janet Brown** - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ We love you all and will be thinking of you during this time. We all have many happy memories. Uncle Gunnar will be missed.

---

**Roxane, Walter & Katelynn Krueger** - July 24, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ "Swede" was a "diamond in the Ruff". I'll always keep the "twinkle in his eye" in my memory bank! Agatha, you are an inspiration and mentor to many. "Hugs" Bonnie T.

---

**Bonnie Tullgren** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Gunnar M. Hellsten*

-----  
**Murrell, Henry H.** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ *We miss you Uncle Gunnar! With love to Aunt Agatha and the entire Hellsten family - please know our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Trina & Robert*

-----  
**Trina & Robert** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *Gunnar M. Hellsten*

-----  
**Paul and Karen Cournaya** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ *Swede will be missed. He was the best supervisor I had during my 20 years in the U.S. Air Force. I will never forget the days at Kinross/Kincheloe. Agatha our prayers will be with you and the family.*

-----  
**Eugene Boone** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RU

“ *Swede was one of the best and his passing signifies the end of an era, at least for those of us who served together at Randolph. He was truly a legend in his own time and will be missed by all of us who knew him.*

-----  
**Robert E. Bob Booth, Col. Ret., USAF** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *The Kinross / Kincheloe AFB Reunion & History Committee has lost a friend indeed. God must have needed extra support in the big hangar that he called Swede home. The world can ill afford the lose of such men. He was everything to everybody. Blessings to A*

---

**A/2c Joe Sullivan** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ *My first Solo Test hop began that fair day in January 1967 with Chief Hellsten watching every move. A friendship was forged which grew stronger with each passing year. And each conversation together gave me new insight and motivation.. A patriot of histor*

---

**Charles & Nancy** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *Agatha,*

*I send my heartfelt condolences to you and to your family. A Mass card is in the mail.*

---

**Rita Sikorski** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *Joe and Melody and family, I am so sorry to hear about the death of your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. John and Laura Greuner*

---

**Laura Greuner** - July 23, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *We will all miss him.*

---

**George & Dolores Cutchens** - July 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ *It's Sunday. Everything is different today, and every day after today will be different, too. Swede always reminded me of my own father - They seemed so much alike. I believe and feel my father is over my shoulder watching. I hope yours is there, too.*

---

**Diane Tyler** - July 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *May your family find peace and comfort in the Lord as you go through this most difficult time. We will miss "Swede" and will remember him always.*

---

**Jim and Pat Nally** - July 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ *Swede was a very special person in my life. Not only was he my boss, he and Agatha are counted as special friends. Mickey and I extend our sympathy to the Hellsten Family. We love you.*

---

**Wesley & Mickey Bartlett** - July 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *Agatha and Family,  
Our sincere condolences, thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time. We have such wonderful memories of our times in Taif and San Antonio. Agatha, Swede is probably showing them how to row the boat in heaven!  
We love you.*

---

**Kika Moore** - July 22, 2007 at 12:00 AM