

*“SMSgt Jerry Bortel, USAF (Ret), passed away January 13, 2013 at home, according to his wishes, after a year with many complicated diagnoses and numerous hospitalizations. Jerry was born on November 16, 1929 in Shiner, Texas to Vincent and Julia (Hajek) Bortel. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1947, which later became the US Air Force. December of 1954 he married Roberta Keller and together they raised a family all over the world including, Guam, Germany, New Mexico, Utah, South Carolina, California and two tours to Vietnam to name a few. Jerry worked on bombers as an aircraft mechanic in the US Air Force. He retired from the US Air Force after 26 years with numerous awards including, the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with five Oak Leaf Clusters.”*

