

## ABOUT THE WWII LETTER WRITER

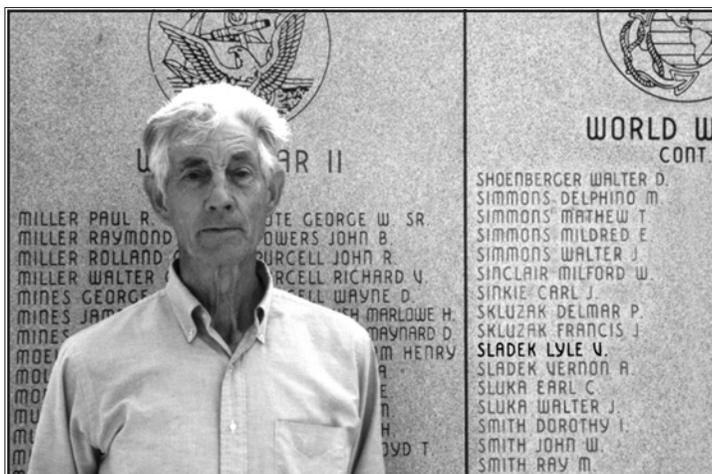


LYLE SLADEK lives with his wife Patricia in California. A multitude of experiences while in the Army Air Corps during World War II profoundly shaped his life. He treasures memories of the wonderful people he met during those years and would like to renew acquaintances. “It was my good fortune,” he says, “to orbit with so many outstanding individuals during that time. It is my hope and prayer that the intervening years have been as kind to them as they have been to me.”

Now Professor of Mathematics, Emeritus, at California Lutheran University, Lyle peddles his bicycle around the campus, frequents the college library, and shares stories with friends. He retains his penchant for puns, poetry, and language as well as music, history, and writing. One room of his home is cluttered with puzzles and posers as well as artifacts that illustrate concepts of mathematics and physics. Along with tending a garden, tinkering in his workshop, and playing pool or bridge with his buddies, he stands ready to help friends and neighbors with house repairs.

Although Lyle has been the recipient of many honors and awards, he has kept the down-to-earth traits of his early upbringing in the heartland of America. Along with his biographical sketch in *Who's Who in America* is this tribute to his parents: “I have sought to return full measure to society for all the opportunities and joys of life that have come my way. I learned from my parents during the dust bowl years that adversity often can be overcome through patience and determination.”

Should you stop by for a visit, bring a dictionary because Lyle will likely ask for your help in solving the daily newspaper crossword.



LYLE SLADEK, BRULE COUNTY WWII MEMORIAL, SOUTH DAKOTA, 2000

MILITARY

Cryptographic Security Officer, WWII Army Air Corps (1943-1946):  
 China-Burma-India (CBI); Pacific theater of operations (PTO)  
 European theater of operations (ETO)  
 Mediterranean theater of operations (MTO)

PROFESSIONAL

Professor of Mathematics, Emeritus, California Lutheran University  
 Shell Merit Fellow, Stanford University  
 Recipient Meritorious Achievement Award in Education  
 National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellow  
 Fulbright Lecturer  
 National Science Foundation (NSF) Lecturer

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Mathematics Education, UCLA  
 M.A., Mathematics Education, Stanford University  
 M.A., Speech and English, University of South Dakota  
 B.A., Mathematics, Electrical Engineering, South Dakota State University

OTHER

Subject of biographical record, *Who's Who in America*  
 Contributor of short stories/poems to newspapers and magazines  
 Speaker on World War II topics



**MY HERO**

My hero is my grandpa. His name is Lyle Sladek. He is a brilliant mathematician, and before he retired, he taught math at Californian Lutheran University. One time I went to visit grandpa Lyle, and he introduced me to his class.

Grandpa Lyle is also a very good handyman. Last time I went to see him he built my brother and me a car. It had a steering wheel, brakes, seat, and even a horn. In the evening rode down hills in it.

I also think grandpa Lyle is very brave. When he was about eighteen he fought in World War II.

That is why he is **my hero!**

*My Hero*

LYLE SLADEK

DRAWN BY GRANDAUGHTER NATASHA SLADEK PALEWICZ (FOURTH GRADE)

NOTE LEFT-HAND SALUTE