



Roy King

Roy King passed away peacefully at Life Care Center, Mt Vernon, Washington on the evening of October 2, 2022, just after his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. Roy was born in London, England in 1934. He was the youngest son of Albert and Ada King, and was preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy Huckins and brother Victor, as well as his former wife, Kuniko. Roy leaves behind his wife, Marlin, son Kenny, and daughters Christine, Victoria, and Jessica, as well as grandchildren Ian and Kiley.

Roy left school at the age of 15 and was recommended for an assistant position in a law firm by a helpful schoolmaster, who undoubtedly recognized that Roy was personable, optimistic, and a budding diplomat. He stayed a short while at the law firm before deciding to join the Royal Air Force. He learned much about aircraft and ground ops during his four years with the RAF. This led him to British European Airways for two years, increasing his knowledge of airline operations. He even tried his hand as a flight attendant, but soon realized that was not for him due to air sickness.



Ever expanding his horizons, he joined Flying Tiger Lines in 1957 as a traffic agent in London. Six months later his career with Tigers took him to the US, including New York, Burbank, and San Francisco. Then it was back to London, as a Regional Manager for Europe. Later he served as Regional Manager in San Francisco, then Tokyo, where he spent many years.

In 1969, Tigers initiated a new Trans-Pacific service, and Roy was delighted to be appointed Terminal Manager for Hong Kong, a challenging and interesting position. He fell in love with the beautiful city and its people, feeling at home there because of his British background in the then British colony. Roy loved the can-do Tiger spirit of every department he worked with. Tigers was booming, becoming the world's largest freight line, and operating charter flights of military personnel during the Vietnam war. At the same time, Tigers was gaining a reputation for transporting famous race horses, orcas, and yes, actual tigers, such as Gombi. Gombi flew from Los Angeles to Manila to appear in Frances Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*. Even camera equipment and a helicopter for use in the movie traveled with Gombi. Who could have a better and more interesting airline to work for?

Roy, whilst in Hong Kong, was promoted further to General Manager of Southeast Asia in 1971. At this time, with Charles Malone of Cathay Pacific, Roy formulated a program to extend their roots together, along with many other upstarting airlines in the region. This was one of the most exciting highlights in his career, and Roy loved every moment of it, traveling to many outposts in Southeast Asia. Many years later, he returned to Germany as a General Manager of European Operations, until FedEx merged with Tigers in 1989.

When he retired he took up temporary positions as a consultant, traveled back to Southeast Asia, and lived in Hong Kong again for a while, before finally returning to Mt Vernon, Washington state. Roy thanked the day that he joined Tigers, which led him to a wonderful life among the great people of the company. He was grateful and proud to have been with Tigers, and to have such great memories of those days. Now he has joined those comrades who, as they say in Tigers, have flown West.