



Karl Stingl passed away peacefully January 20, 2012 with his wife, Sunny, by his side. Karl was born July 17, 1922 in Eibenberg, in the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia to Irma and Karl Stingl. Five years later his parents had his brother Rudi.

In the midst of a depression in 1937, and sensing WWII on the horizon, Karl's parents sent him to live with his father's cousin in Bremerton, Washington. His little brother was too young to travel and remained at home. Karl spent three weeks traveling from Germany to Seattle, and worked off his passage once he arrived in Bremerton. Karl graduated from Bremerton High School in 1939.

For Karl Stingl, skiing was a way of life. He began when he was a boy in Czechoslovakia and continued well into old age. He began competing in jumping and cross-country meets when he was just eleven years old. After arriving in Washington, his jumping abilities took him to the Snoqualmie Summit. The Norwegians of the Seattle Ski Club said they would give him a free membership if he could jump a certain distance. After Karl exceeded their expectations he competed under their banner. As a junior he won almost every race he entered. Behind the Ski Club hill there was a slalom

course. Karl skied this hill on his jumping skis for a while, but soon his friends encouraged him to try out a pair of slalom skis. Soon he was a top competitor in Northwest alpine skiing and ski jumping. In 1942, Karl won first place ribbons in the jumping, slalom, downhill and men's team events in the Snoqualmie Summit Team Championships.

Karl joined the 10th Mountain Division in 1942 with other young skiers from Europe, Scandinavia and the US. He received letters of recommendation, which helped him get into the 87th Mountain Regiment, a unique group of expert mountaineers. He began his training on Mount Rainer, Washington, and was in the first group to occupy Camp Hale, Colorado. He was trained under extreme conditions in winter warfare, skiing, snowshoeing, rock climbing, and other mountain battle tactics. He joined the 1st Battalion as an Expert Infantryman.

Karl fought in the Aleutian Islands, Kiska, Alaska, and Italy. In the closing days of the war the Tenth fought in the Apennines Mountains and Po Valley. During the battle for Castel d'Aiano his jeep flipped over during shell fire and he was injured. Karl was awarded the Bronze Star and Combat Infantry, as well as ribbons in Pacific and European Theatre, and was field issued the Purple Heart. He was also awarded the American Service Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After the war was over, Karl went on leave for one week. He borrowed a motor cycle in Slovenia and drove back to Czechoslovakia to reunite with his family. There he was able to see his brother return from the Russian front where he had been fighting in the German army. After spending a short time at home, Karl hitched a ride with some British Officers and rejoined his Unit just in time to sail back to the States. Once he collected his muster pay, Karl spent time skiing with all the friends he made in the army. He later worked as a ski instructor in Aspen, Sun Valley, and Alta. He continued ski racing and was an alternate for the 1948 Olympic team.

While Karl was skiing at Stevens Pass with the Penguin Ski Club, he met Sonja Wold. The two bonded over their love of winter athletics and got married in 1955. At this time Karl was coaching the University of Washington ski team in the winter, was a rigger for the UW Crew team, and did carpentry work in the summer. He built a home in Edmonds where the couple raised four children, all avid skiers.

After spending 17 years coaching at the UW he worked full time at Snoqualmie Summit running the ski school in the winter and being actively involved in new construction during the summer. After spending ten years at Snoqualmie, Karl was self-employed as a carpenter and specialized in cabinetry. One program of particular importance to Karl was the Mity Mites racing program, which focused on the development of very young ski racers in the Pacific Northwest. He stayed active in the PNSA ski racing program well into his eighties. Karl received many awards for his contribution to alpine skiing and jumping including induction in the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame in 1992. He was President of the Rainer chapter of the Tenth Mountain Division Veterans until his death.

Karl was preceded in death by his parents Irma and Karl, and his little brother Rudi. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sunny; children Heidi and husband Kelly Adams of Saskatchewan, Canada; Karl and wife Ashley of Sun Valley, ID; Sandy and husband Bob Christie of Bellingham; Kristi and husband Mark Lewis of Renton; and granddaughters Kari and Anna of Bellingham; and Jessica and Kate of Renton.