



Donald L. Clarke

December 2, 1917 - December 11, 2009

Retired Air Force Colonel Donald L. Clarke, 92, passed away peacefully on December 11, 2009. Col. Clarke was born December 2, 1917 in Utica, New York to Allan M. Clarke and Ellen Todd. He spent his childhood in Adams, New York.

On March 12, 1941, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. In April 1942, he received his commission and joined the Army Air Corps. Col. Clarke served as a P-47 pilot in WWII in the European Theater, successfully completing 76 missions. His Air Force career spanned 30 years and culminated in his assignment as Base Commander, McGuire A.F.B., New Jersey. He was the recipient of numerous medals including the Legion of Merit and Distinguished Flying Cross. Col. Clarke retired in San Antonio, Texas in 1971. He was a member of the Order of Daedalians and an avid golfer. He shot a hole-in-one on the 12th hole at Lackland AFB Golf Course on September 26, 1988.

Donald L. Clarke is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Elizabeth Jane, of San Antonio, his children Richard L. Clarke and his wife Katy of Seneca, South Carolina, Thomas A. Clarke and his wife Carolyn of San Antonio, Margaret E. Lester and her husband Tim of Alexandria, Virginia, Michele Ashley and her husband Jim of Austin and by his grandchildren Scott Clarke, Jennifer Clarke Fontaine, Jessica Lester Frey and her husband Eric, Captain USMC, Jason D. Lester, Aubree Ashley Layton and her husband Patrick, LTJG. USN, West Clarke Ashley, Thomas A. Clarke, II and Travis Clarke. He

is also survived by his brother Alan M. Clarke, 94, his wife Anne, and their children Sharon, Paul, Nancy and Nelson. The family would like to thank all of the wonderful people who assisted with his care.

Tribute Wall

SP

“ Dear Clarke Family:

Please accept my deepest sympathies on the loss of your beloved. There are never any right words to express how deeply sad I am for the pain your family is enduring at this difficult time.

Although I did not have the honor a

Senator Leticia Van de Putte - December 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *My family has known Don and Betty for many years. My father, Curtis Farris, and Don were golfing buddies for over 20 years, beginning at Travis AFB back in the 60's. Don was a true "officer and gentleman". He was, without a doubt, one of the finest men*

Janet Burwell - December 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM