



## Leslie Elliott Knapp

November 17, 1924 - September 27, 2008

### KNAPP

Columnist Roddy Stinson once wrote this about Lt. Col. Leslie Knapp USAF Ret. "If my safety or the safety of my family were at risk, I would call Les, the retired lieutenant colonial who lives across the street. He doesn't move as fast as he once did, but he can be depended on in a pinch, and he would be at my house in a blink. Stinson was writing about our 911 system, but his words are a testimony to the quiet hero who never hesitated for a moment when called upon by his friends, family or country.

Leslie E. Knapp, beloved husband, father and grandfather passed away peacefully at age 83 on September 27, 2008. At his side was his loving wife of 55 years, Lois Mae Knapp. Knapp is survived by his wife and four children, Deborah Knapp, Gregory and Cristy Mitchell Knapp, Rebecca Knapp and Douglas Knapp. He is also survived by his ten wonderful grandchildren, Alicia and Austin Bonilla, Kristin, Matthew, Sarah and Daniel Knapp, Monica and Mathew Hefti, Geronimo, Autumn and Kyle Mitchell and two great grand daughters. Col. Knapp was born in Independence, Iowa 17 November 1924 to Leslie E. Knapp Sr. and Lucy A. Dozark Knapp of Aurora, Iowa. He was the oldest of four children followed by Norbert Knapp, Richard Knapp and Joanne Knapp McMasters. Knapp was pre-deceased by his parents and his brothers Norbert and Richard. Col. Knapp grew up in Aurora, IA and enlisted in the Army Air Corps at age 18 in Dec. 1942. He flew fighter aircraft P-38 over

Germany and returned to the USA in 1945.

He left service for the active reserve in 1947 and attended Upper Iowa University where he obtained a double degree, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics cum laude and a Bachelor of Arts Degree cum laude in History. After attending the University of Iowa in Graduate Nuclear Physics for a year and a half he was recalled to active duty in the United States Air Force. Knapp married Lois M. Power of Manchester, Iowa on 29 Dec. 1952. They were assigned to Japan in 1953 where Knapp flew the L-20 aircraft in support of early warning radar sites around Japan and Korea. After returning to the US in 1956 Knapp attended Stanford University and obtained a Masters of Science Degree in Mathematical Statistics and Computer Science. Knapp was next assigned to Research and Development Computers and Bionics at Wright Patterson, AFB, Dayton, Ohio. While assigned there, Knapp flew a P-38 fighter aircraft from Kelly, AFB, TX to WPAFB, Ohio where it is on display at the Air Force Museum. In 1964 Knapp was assigned to the University of Michigan to obtain a Doctorate in Bio-Engineering. In 1968 Knapp was assigned as a Forward Air Controller flying the O-1E in Vietnam. Knapp arrived in Vietnam in January 1968 in plenty of time to enjoy the fireworks displayed during the Tet Offensive. After flying 350 missions as a Forward Air Controller, Knapp was reassigned to the Aerospace Medical Division at Brooks AFB, Texas as Chief of R&D plans for AMD. Col. Knapp retired August 1972. Knapp was a Command Pilot and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with four silver clusters, Commendation Medal, and several more medals and citations. Knapp always said he was proud to be an American and have an opportunity to serve the country he loved and hopefully to make the world a little safer for his loving family and for everyone. A wonderful and devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend, Leslie Knapp will be dearly missed. He was an inspiration to all who were blessed to know him. Our family wishes to thank the wonderful doctors and staff at CTRC, UTHSC and LifeCare Hospital.

## SERVICES

A visitation will be held from 6:00 – 9:00 PM on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. A church service will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at St. Pius X Catholic Church with interment to follow at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. The family requests that memorials in honor of Leslie Knapp be sent to the Salvation Army P.O. Box 12568, San Antonio, TX. 78212

# Tribute Wall

WG

“ *the world is a poorer place without Les.  
he left behind a wonderful family and a host of friends and admirers.  
i proudly belong to that group.  
you have my heartfelt condolences and best wishes..  
Bill Glisson..friend and co-worker,Brooks AFB.*

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**william glisson** - October 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *I just heard the news via Alan Scherenbeck. I am so sorry. We will  
pray for Les.*

*Remeber walking to school with your kids. God Bless, Mark*

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**Mark Hoxie** - October 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Lois Mae Knapp and Family:*

*On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the San  
Antonio Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society,  
we express our deepest sympathy to you and your family with the  
passing of your dear husband, father,*

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**Col Thomas W. Wood** - October 01, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Lois and Family,  
Know that there is a special angel looking over you, and that we will  
all be together again some day. I will keep you in my prayers.  
Chris Baker*

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**Chris Baker** - September 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Dearest Knapp Family,  
My memories of Mr. Knapp mixes high intelligence with warmth,  
compassion and gentleness. He was the winning combination. My  
thoughts are with each of you during this most difficult time.

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**April Newman** - September 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ I knew Col. Knapp only a short time in my adolescence, but had the  
greatest respect for the man. Though I was just a teenager, he  
treated me with uncommon deference, friendliness, and in such a  
manner that I could not help but admire him. I consider myse

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**Steve Clark** - September 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Lois and family,  
So sorry to hear about Les. He was one of the nicest people I have  
ever met. Just so comfortable to be around. We always looked  
forward to our visit on our way through San Antonio to Zapata to  
see the folks. May God be with you in

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**Mike and Eunice Hasselbring** - September 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ We were saddened to learn the news that Les passed away. It was a  
pleasure to know such a nice family living as neighbors in our  
community. May our Lord bless you with peace knowing he is home  
for his reward. We will treasure his memories forever.

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**Norvin & Mary Friesenhahn** - September 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ To the Knapp Family,  
I have known each of you all my life. I will always remember how kind and friendly you all are. I am so very proud to have known Mr. Knapp. He was always a nice man with a warm and caring smile. I will keep you all in my thoughts and

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**Dedi Herold-Boyer** - September 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Our thoughts and Prayers are with you at this time of loss. You will always have memories that you'll keep in your hearts forever.

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**Bob and Brenda Sykes** - September 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

HL

“ We will keep all of you in our prayers. May His peace fill your hearts. Sincerely, Louise and Harry

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**Harry & Louise Lund** - September 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Les,  
It was an honor and privledge to know you. I salute you and your generation of service men/women who some 67 years ago decided that someone needed to take up arms and literally "save a world."  
You put your life in harms way to make sure our cou

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**Steven Stoli** - September 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM