



## Major Burdette R. Smith, USAF RET

December 13, 1920 - October 1, 2011

### SMITH

Major Burdette Raymond Smith, USAF Ret was born on a farm in Otho Township a few miles south of Fort Dodge Iowa to William and Elizabeth Smith on 13 December 1920. Burdette, 91, died on 1 October 2011 at the Emeritus Nursing Home at Stonebridge, McKinney Texas. Burdette was the third of four children Pauline, Herbert and Marilyn all deceased. Burdette's dad worked as an engineer in the local coal mines. After the death of his mother, Burdette moved to Madrid, Iowa where he attended Madrid High School and graduated in 1941. Soon after, he joined the Army Air Corps and was assigned to the 397th Aerial Bombardment Group in Kimbolton, England, where he accomplished 25 missions over Germany and Northern Europe. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Several Air Medals for his courageous service as an A-1 gunner and radio operator. After the war he married Mabel Potter and the two settled in Otho Iowa. Burdette was recalled to active duty in 1948 and served in Korea as a cryptologist for the initial US invading forces. Mabel and Burdette had four children; Gregory, Douglass, Candice and Susan. The Smith family moved to San Antonio in the early 50's where Burdette worked at Security Service. Major Burdette Smith retired from the USAF in 1963 after 23 years of honorable service and then went to work as a Civil Servant for Security Service for another 20 years. He was responsible for crypto on Minuteman missiles, NASA/DoD satellites and many

Embassies and Military Command centers. Mabel died in 1969 and Burdette married LaVaughn Silcott on 5 May 1970. Burdette served as a Deacon for several years at the Northridge Park Baptist Church. They then became members of First Baptist Church in San Antonio. They lived in San Antonio until 2009, then moved to the Emeritus Nursing Home at Stonebridge, McKinney Texas to be close to Candice who cared for both LaVaughn and Burdette. Burdette is survived by his wife LaVaughn of 42 years. Burdette was a good and loyal husband to LaVaughn and was a good and loving father to his children. Burdette was an avid golfer and a devoted Christian who inspired many to follow Christ. He had eleven grandchildren: Matthew, Aaron, Nora, Michelle, Marcos, Jennifer, Joel, Ryan, Bradley Jr, Michael, and E.J. He had numerous great grandchildren. Burdette's life was a life of service. He served and defended his country. He loved and took care of both his wives, Mabel and LaVaughn. He raised his four children, ensuring they were hard working and loving Christians. And above all he served his real master, Jesus Christ. We would like to thank the fine professionals at Emeritus Nursing Home at Stonebridge, McKinney Texas. The Nurses and CNA's who cared for our Dad — Thank you. Lastly, a special thanks to Candice and Susan who were Dad's loving angels over his last difficult years.

#### Services

Visitation will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North with a Graveside Service at 1:45 PM on Friday, October 14, 2011 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full USAF honors.