



The 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, Inc. The Long Rangers



Reunion Update

The 307th is on the move
to San Diego

Reunion 2018

**October 12th-15th, 2018
San Diego, CA**

**Welcome to Holiday Inn
Bay-side, San Diego CA**

Holiday Inn San Diego Bay-side

We are fast approaching our reunion in San Diego. We have closed our registration pages and gathered all of the troops. We are now making our way over to the WEST COAST. San Diego here we come AGAIN. We have so much planned.

Your Reunion Host Jill Wzywany has done just a FANTASTIC!! job

John Poggi has put together an awesome Football game between San Diego State and the Air Force. It is going to be tons of fun. Thanks John for all the work.

We will be joining great friends and lots of family for a wonderful time of enjoyment and fellowship. You will be missing a great time if your not attending. Come drop in on us and enjoy the fun.

A Big thanks go to Debbie Drake, your President, for working so hard to make the past 2 years work so well. Now she is asking you to vote your top 3 choices for the 2019 Reunion. On October 1st the top 3 will be announced and a final vote during our meeting on Oct. 13th for 2019 location. A proxy vote may also be sent in to the President or Secretary's email address no later than October 11th.

Site Name: 307th Bombardment Group (H)

[Click here to Vote!!!](#)



How we Started

The 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, Inc., The Long Rangers grew out of the initial meeting of former World War II members who got together in the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie in Reno, Nevada on September 11-12, 1972. Our goal and hope was for continued growth and expanded interest in the Nation's finest heroes. The members attending the initial meeting were: Carl Whitesell, Dan Cauffiel, George Jaffe, Ed Jurkens, M. P. Nelson, Arthur Downs, and C. Scott.

Our organization has grown and we have expanded to include the Children of the 307th and their families. Our hope is to insure that future generations never forget the sacrifices that these men made for them and our country. Every two years we hold a reunion in a different part of the country and have a great time reminiscing and catching up with old and new friends.

WE ARE THE FAMILY!! WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF HEROS



Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

I'm hoping this finds everyone safe and comfortable as we go into fall. There has been terrible weather of every kind over our nation and I for one am looking forward to a little fall weather. Even if in Florida that means only a 5 degree drop in temperature. Stay safe and enjoy the fall where ever you live.

We are coming down to the last days before our big Reunion in San Diego!!! I know I'm looking forward to seeing everyone and going back to a town I enjoyed living in for 3 years during

my husbands Navy career.

As we come towards our next election of Officers, I just want to say how much I love this group and all it's members, especially our Veterans. It has had its challenges, but it will have been worth it when we get together and enjoy each other's company. Thank you all for giving me this time.

If you have not already joined or been invited to join our Shutterfly Member page, please send me your email address and I will add you. There is so much fun that can be had visiting on this site and it's completely private to only members. You can send email requests to arizonakitten@gmail.com

Thank you, all & God bless,

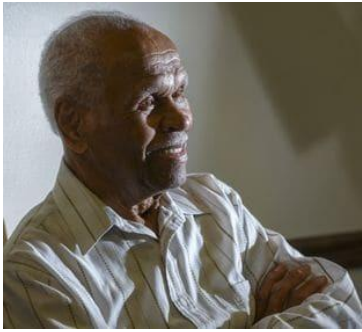
Debbie Drake

Debbie Drake - President

The Long Rangers

307th Bombardment Group (HV)

Email Me at - President@307bg.net



A club of their own: The story of a secret poker society started by pioneering African Americans

By Tara Bahrapour

[See the story on the web](#)

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO A DEAR FRIEND OF MINE FOR SHARING THIS AWESOME AND INSPIRING STORY.

THANK YOU MR. KING HOLLANDS.

September 8

In 1942, a group of university professors, doctors, lawyers and other black professionals in Washington wanted to get together on weekends and play poker. But they had a problem. Not only did segregation in the District bar them from joining country clubs or other social organizations where men could gather, but the president of Howard University, where many of them taught, was a religious man who did not approve of card-playing.

So they started a monthly gathering in their homes and came up with a name to mask its true nature — the Brookland Literary and Hunting Club. Still going after more than 75 years, it is the subject of a project funded by the D.C. Oral History Collaborative, which trains people to record pieces of the city's history, that will be archived in a special collection at the D.C. Public Library.

The project's creator, Eve Austin, first heard about the club when her husband, Doug, joined it last year. Now 54, he was a couple of generations younger than most members, many of whom are in their 90s. That lent an urgency to Austin's undertaking.

"From the minute he told me about it, it was like, 'Oh my gosh, they're still playing?' " she said.

"They started in 1940-something and they're still playing?"

They were. Early members included Matthew Whitehead, former president of Miner Teachers College in the District and also a consultant on Brown v. Board of Education; William B. Bryant, the first black chief judge of Washington's federal court; and H. Minton Francis Sr., a high-ranking

Howard administrator and one of a small number of African American graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at the time.

Robert Vest, 99, is a longtime member of the Brookland Literary and Hunting Club, a poker group that started in 1942. (Doug Kapustin for The Washington Post)



Waiting for the videos to start, Taylor, who joined the club 33 years ago, explained its name. “It was literary because of discussions we’d have — of the civil rights and so on. And it was hunting because we played the cards, and you’re always hunting” for a good hand.

There were two tables — the big table, where hundreds of dollars exchanged hands over five-card stud, and the little table, whose participants played for coins or dollar bills and peppered the games with wild cards. Men would start at the little table and sometimes move up to the big one. As they got older and went on fixed incomes, some would move back to the little table.

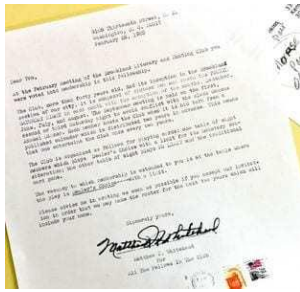
Five current members and several family members joined Austin and her videographer, Kenneth Campbell, to watch the footage.

Austin dimmed the lights and the men’s faces bloomed on a screen. They talked about childhoods in the 1920s and ’30s. They talked about careers, families and politics. And they talked about poker.

“We’ve had great games and there’s never anybody who ran out of money, because somebody says: ‘Here, take some more. Just take it. Give it to me when you can,’ ” said the on-screen Jim Butts, 84, who was also in attendance. “It became an organization of people who were not only interested in an outlet for discussion of the issues, but also one of concern about each other.”

[Radio host about lonely 95-year-old caller: ‘We’ve all got a Bill in our lives’]

Jock Banks, 65, began coming in as a guest in the 1970s when his father or uncle, both members of the club, hosted. After his father died in 2007, he was invited to take his place. It felt good, he said, “like sitting in Dad’s comfort chair.”



Tom Taylor's hand typed invitation to the The Brookland Literary and Hunting Club from 1985. (Doug Kapustin for The Washington Post)

In Austin's video, he spoke of his membership as a treasured legacy. "You get a lot of things from your parents, but when you get a social organization as part of your inheritance it means something. And I like these guys. I like the gathering. I like the literary part. The older people had a nice tradition going. ... It helps me sort of, you know, understand my dad, where he assembled his values and who he looked to in terms of role models."

As part of the D.C. Public Library's special collection, the footage will be available for future researchers, family members and others to view and use, said Maggie Lemere, consulting oral historian and director of community engagement for the collaborative. The collaborative, a partnership project between the Humanities Council of Washington, the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., and the D.C. Public Library, has funded 18 oral history projects in the past two years and holds classes for others who want to learn to do them. "We want to capture the memories of people while they're still here to tell their stories," Lemere said.

Archival material collected by Austin includes copies of formal letters about club business, typed on a typewriter. From 1985: "Dear Tom, At the February meeting of the Brookland Literary and Hunting Club you were voted into membership in this fellowship." A "Schedule of Events" from 1995 included a Literary Period and a period of Gastronomic Diversion before the Hunt began.

Jim Butts, 84, is the current chairman of the Brookland Literary and Hunting Club. (Doug Kapustin for The Washington Post)

For the gastronomy, wives, or sometimes mothers, would cook (many wives were also poker players who played alongside their husbands in other, mixed-sex gatherings). Club members also helped their colleagues outside the game, sending get-well cards to each other's spouses, visiting each other in the hospital, contributing to endowments after they died.



The meeting earlier this month had a bittersweet edge. Members acknowledged that in all likelihood, the club was finally fading out.

"When you begin to hit 90, you begin to slow down," Taylor said. "The enthusiasm is there, but the energy's not there."

"I think we should keep it up," said Robert Vest, 99. Then he added, "I don't know whether I can or not."

The problem wasn't just the aging of the group. Earlier cohorts had aged out and been replaced, but these days it was harder to recruit the middle-aged men who traditionally filled in the gaps.

"I think the appreciation for getting together is not there anymore," said Doug Austin. "The younger generation, they play poker online or in the casino."

Banks admitted he had taken his poker table to the dump. "It was all ripped up." (He kept his chips, though.)

[This couple divorced in 1968. A half century later they got married again]

Taylor nodded. "Society does change, and we have to change with the times," he said. "The weekend now is busier than it ever was. There's so many things that you can do on the weekend. ... So I don't know. Should we take a break?"

Butts suggested that maybe the group could meet less often, like every other month, or quarterly. "Just to keep the genesis of the group together, because we all enjoy the interaction."

At 65, Jock Banks is one of the youngest members of the Brookland Literary and Hunting Club. His father and uncle were members before him. (Doug Kapustin for The Washington Post)

That interaction could be part of what has kept them going for so long. Studies show the importance of social networks for maintaining good health in old age, and the club has been a reliable touchstone for its members, Austin said.

"It was about getting together to play cards, but it was really about the friendship and the relationships," she said.

Austin, who is considering turning the footage into a short film, added that she has learned a lot from the men — including how to gracefully accept the end of an era.

“They all have this kind of really healthy, mature attitude about change and loss,” she said. Perhaps, she said, “when you get to a certain age you’re dealing with so much of it, you get better at it.”

Even the group’s younger members were philosophical about the end of what they jokingly call “old man poker.”

“I feel really privileged to have been able to participate, you know, as a young man and now as an older man, and I do have regrets that it seems to be passing into the night,” Banks said in the video. “But if that’s its fate, I mean, there will be other poker games for me to play. ... Don’t cry for me. I’ll be fine.”

Members of the Brookland Literary and Hunting Club view footage from Eve Austin’s oral history project on the club. (Doug Kapustin for The Washington Post)

Tara Bahrapour Tara Bahrapour, a staff writer based in Washington, D.C., writes about aging, generations and demography. She has also covered immigration and education and has reported from the Middle East and North Africa, and from the republic of Georgia.



From Our Historian

Jim McCabe

We should all remember the great sacrifice that all of our brothers in arms paid to save this country from the tyranny of our oppressors.

The Tuskegee Airmen Legacy

"Tuskegee Airmen" refers to the men and women, African-Americans and Caucasians, who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experience", the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft.

The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air.



Who are the Tuskegee Airmen?

Less we forget

The Tuskegee Airmen (Airmen) sprang from an experiment conducted by the US Army Air Corps (Army Air Forces) to see if Negroes (primarily African-Americans) had the mental and physical capabilities to lead, fly military aircraft, and the courage to fight in war.

The Airmen were not limited to pilots, they included technicians, radio operators, supply personnel, medical personnel, parachute riggers, mechanics, bombardiers, navigators, meteorologists, control tower operators/dispatchers, cooks, and much, much, more. Included also were the Caucasian military personnel who oversaw base operations, as well as native-Americans, Caribbean islanders, Latinos, and people of mixed racial heritage.

Who were the women? The women of the Tuskegee Experience worked side-by-side with their male counterparts as mechanics, gate guards, control tower operators, did aircraft body work, secretaries, and clerks. There were three permanent female parachute riggers whose responsibility was to train the hundreds of cadets that filed through the program on the appropriate way to pack and maintain parachutes. Gertrude Anderson served as Assistant to G.L. Washington at Kennedy Field, where Tuskegee's Civilian Pilot Training Program was held. She assumed responsibility for continued operation of the airfield when Washington was transferred to Tuskegee Army Air Field.

Both men and women served proudly together, but not without challenges..One such challenge has been dubbed, The Freeman Field Mutiny. Click the link to learn more.

The Tuskegee Airmen shared an experience unique to its time. The experiences of these pioneers opened doors that led to corridors of opportunities for others to enter, eventually leading to the Presidency of the United States.

Significance of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

The Tuskegee Airmen and the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site are significant for several reasons:

(1) The struggle of African Americans for greater roles in North American military conflicts spans four centuries. Opportunities for African American participation in the U.S. military were always very limited and controversial. Quotas, exclusion, and racial discrimination were based on the prevailing attitude in the United States, particularly on the part of the U.S. military, that African Americans did not possess the intellectual capacity, aptitude, and skills to be successful fighters. Political pressure exerted by the black press, civil rights groups, historically black colleges and universities, and others, resulted in the formation of the Tuskegee Airmen, making them an excellent example of the struggle by African Americans to serve in the United States military.

(2) In the early 1940s, key leaders within the United States Army Air Corps (Army Air Forces) did not believe that African Americans had the intellectual capacity to become successful military pilots. After succumbing to the pressure exerted by civil rights groups and black leaders, the army decided to train a small number of African American pilot cadets under special conditions. Although prejudice and discrimination against African Americans occurred throughout the nation, it was more intense in the South where it had hardened into rigidly enforced patterns of segregation. Such was the environment that the military chose to locate the training of the Tuskegee Airmen.

(3) The military selected Tuskegee Institute (Tuskegee University) as a civilian contractor for a variety of reasons. These included the school's existing facilities, engineering and technical instructors, and a climate with ideal flying conditions year round; and the racial climate of central Alabama. Tuskegee Institute's strong interest in providing aeronautical training for African American youth was also an important factor, Tuskegee's students and faculty had designed and constructed Moton Field as a site for its military pilot training program and named it for the school's second president Robert Russa Moton.

(4) In 1941, the Army Air Corps (Army Air Forces) awarded a contract to Tuskegee Institute to operate a primary flight school at Moton Field. Consequently, Tuskegee Institute was one of a very few American institutions - and the only African American institution - to own, develop, and control facilities for military flight instruction.

(5) Moton Field was the only primary flight training facility for African American pilot candidates in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Thus, the facility symbolizes the entrance of African

American pilots into the Army Air Corps and the singular role of Tuskegee Institute in providing economic and educational resources to make that entry possible, although on a segregated basis.

(6) The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American soldiers to successfully complete their training and enter the Army Air Corps . Almost 1000 aviators were produced as America's first African American military pilots. In addition, more than 10,000 military and civilian African American men and women served in a variety of support roles.

(7) Although military leaders were hesitant to use the Tuskegee Airmen in combat, the airmen eventually saw considerable action in North Africa and Europe. Acceptance from Army Air Forces units came slowly, but their courageous and, in many cases, heroic performance earned them increased combat opportunities and respect.

(8) The success of the Tuskegee Airmen proved to the American public that African Americans, when given the opportunity, could become effective military leaders and pilots. Modeled on the professionalism of Chief Alfred Anderson, Benjamin O. Davis, and Daniel "Chappie" James, their performance helped pave the way for desegregation of the military, beginning with President Harry S Truman's Executive Order 9811 in 1948. It also helped set the stage for civil rights advocates to continue the struggle to end racial discrimination during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Consequently, the story of the Tuskegee Airmen constitutes a powerful and seminal metaphor for the struggle of black freedom in America.

(9) The Tuskegee Airmen reflect the struggle of African Americans to achieve equal rights, not only through legal attacks on the system of segregation, but also through the techniques of nonviolent direct action aimed at segregation in the military. The members of the 477th Bombardment Group, who staged a nonviolent demonstration to desegregate the officers' club at Freeman Field, Indiana, helped set the pattern for direct action protests popularized by civil rights activists in later decades.

(The above information is excerpted from the Tuskegee Airmen Long-Range Interpretive Plan 2003 and the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site's enabling legislation—Public Law 105-355)

Respectfully,

Jim McCabe, Historian
307th BG Assoc.

www.307bg.net

james-mccabe@comcast.net



Hello everyone!

Well the third quarter of the year is gone and we are getting ready to close down 2018. My how time is flying by. I hope all is well with you and your families.

As we stated going into 2018, we would send our quarterly newsletters with a section that will reflect our financial standing and membership updates.

Currently with the upcoming reunion we have a total of \$9,780 as of September 21, 2018. Of this Dues = \$3,045, and Donations = \$1,120 in the account. Thanks to the many folk that have paid their dues and some new members that have joined.

Individual Membership - 35.00

Couples Membership - \$60.00

Family Membership - \$95.00

Remember that if you have not paid your dues you can click the button below that will take you directly to the website to pay your dues. You may also pay your dues at the reunion or log on to the website at

www.307.bg.net

and pay dues through the PX.

OR send a a check to directly to :

Greta H. Walsh

Treasurer

307th Bombardment Group

2032 Mason Lane

Spring Hill, TN 37174

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at treasurer@307bg.net

Thank you,

G

In World War II, the youngest serviceman in the United States military was Calvin Graham - age 12. Graham lied about his age when he enlisted in the US Navy. His real age was not discovered until after he was wounded. (Unbelievable)



We would like all of you to all welcome to the family our new members. These folk have joined us and we look forward to those that will be joining us at the upcoming reunion in San Diego California.

Supporters who need our support

Do you know what the Bent Star and Bent Prop Project ARE?

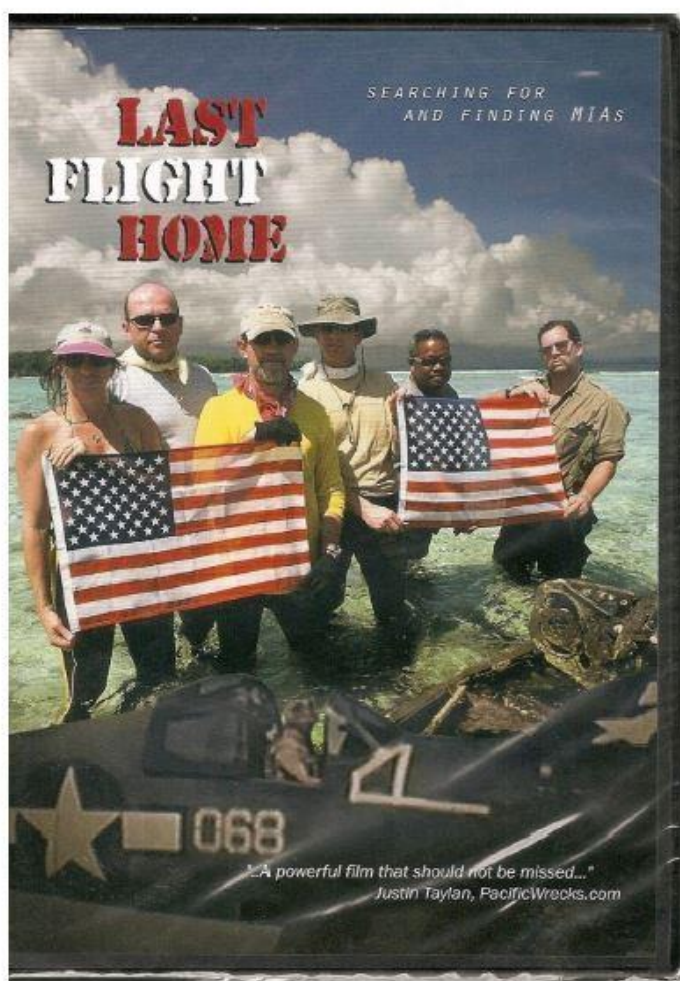
What started as a once in a lifetime opportunity to follow Dr. Pat Scannon on his quest to find Missing in Action personnel in the jungles and waters of Palau has become a quest of our own to bring these expeditions to you with the below video

"LAST FLIGHT HOME"

Order your copy today by going to www.lastflighthome.org

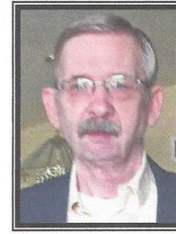
Or emailing to

info@bentstarproject.org



Who is Jim Hough?

And why is he tinkering around behind the scenes in the 307th Website?



Well, the fact is, if we didn't mention it you may never have known.

Jim Hough was briefly mentioned in our November '14 newsletter. A veteran himself, Jim Entered the Navy in January 1966 at Great Lakes Training Center, transferred to Millington NAS Tennessee for reciprocating jet engine and helicopter schools, assigned to Heltraron 8, Ellyson Field Pensacola, Florida. After two weeks he entered air crewman school.

Jim researched the Pacific Theater of Operations for over 20 years. He ran across a reference to the 307th Bomb Group and dug a little deeper. While browsing the internet one day last summer, Jim came upon the 307th BG website and found more work than he ever bargained for. Although most of our photos are in great shape, he found hundreds of our scanned photos damaged by age, creases, folds, fades and tears. He placed a call to Jim Walsh and offered the 307th an unforgettable gift. He offered to thumb through the photos in our Website Photo Library [<http://www.307bg.net/history/index.asp>], pick out the ones that needed fixing and replace them with the new and improved versions. All as a donation to the 307th BG. We could not pass up an offer like that!

Since last July, Jim has worked with Don Calarco to replace and exchange hundreds of otherwise damaged photos. Many of them, looking like new, are photos of our fathers and grandfathers. Some, you may never have seen. We urge you to spend some quality time browsing the Photo Library. If you find a photo of your veteran hero, let us know the page and the photo number and we'll rename the photo so it can be searched and found by name. Send your discovery information to Don Calarco at members.services@307bg.net.



Here's a [Before] and [After] example of Jim Hough's work on our Photo Library.

If you wish to inquire about repairing any of your personal photos, contact Jim Hough at jimhough7@msn.com



FINAL FLIGHTS

307th Bombardment Group Association

This new Final Flights page was first started following our 2014 Family Reunion in Santa Fe, NM. Seven of our revered veteran members were in attendance, and while some of our most devoted may not be able to travel, they are always remembered and we are forever grateful for the part they played in making the 307th Bombardment Group Association a successful, family unit.

The hardest news to share and to receive is the news of one of our own taking their final flight and leaving this world to join their freinds and fellow heroes who have gone before them. This page is dedicated to all our dearly departed.

Harley Lee Drollinger

AUGUST 8, 1924 - JULY 30, 2018



Harley Lee Drollinger went peacefully home to his heavenly Father, whom he loved and served all of his life, on July 30, 2018.

Harley was born on a farm in Madrid, NE on August 8, 1924 to Lynn and Virginia Drollinger. His early years were spent in NE, and when he was older his family moved to Spokane, WA where his father found work. Harley (Drolly to his fellow airmen) served in the Air Force as a bombardier on B-24s during WWII. He later regaled his grandchildren with stories of the time he and his crew were shot down over the Pacific, swam to an island, and were rescued by a submarine. He went on to fly in 39 more missions.

beyond those to include, among others, the Celebes,

After the war Harley took advantage of the GI Bill and attended Gonzaga University where he received his degree in Civil engineering. Upon graduating, he joined the family business, Valley Ready-Mix Concrete Company in Sunnyside, WA. On a visit home to see his parents he offered a ride to a pretty neighbor and on August 14, 1949 he married that girl, the love of his life, Patricia Bleasner. They were married almost 70 years. Their first home together was in Prosser, WA, where daughter Wilmalee and son Bruce were born.

Harley and Pat were involved in ministry from the very beginning; together they started a youth ministry at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grandview, WA, which Harley had helped to build. In 1961 they moved to Richland, WA to help start another Ready-Mix plant. While in Richland daughter Ruth was born. During that year an important decision was prayerfully made; Harley felt called to the pastoral ministry. He left the family business and enrolled at Wartburg Lutheran Seminary in Dubuque, IA. Upon completion of his training there in 1965 he accepted a call to be pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Potlatch, ID. With God's help, much enthusiasm, and his previous building experience, Harley led volunteer workers in raising the church and putting in a full basement. Many other improvements were added to the church.

In 1974, after nine good years as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, as well as a joint ministry to the Community Presbyterian Church, Harley and his family moved to Yakima, WA where he spent the rest of his life, cheerfully working hard and blessed with good health. He built two new homes, was employed as a civil engineer, and operated his own house rental business. He and Pat were very active at First Presbyterian Church where Harley served as an Elder, a Deacon and a Bible teacher of the Golden Circle class. Harley had a servant's heart and filled needs wherever needed. Harley and Pat especially supported the ministries of Wycliffe Bible Translators and Compassion International.

Harley's energy and enthusiasm for life was boundless, he knew no stranger, and loved to tease. His life was filled with love; of Jesus, of people, and of laughter. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his brothers Howard and Martin (Marty) Drollinger, and grandson, Noble Stoneman.

Harley is survived by his wife of 69 years, Patricia, his children Wilmalee (Francis) Larson, Bruce (Diane) Drollinger, and Ruth Drollinger, his eight grandchildren, and his nine great-grand children.

■ Arthur B. Powell

1920 - 2018 ✓ Obituary ➔ Guest Book



Sign the
Guest Book

Powell, Arthur B. WEATHERFORD -- Art died peacefully at age 98, on August 13. FUNERAL: 12:30 p.m. Friday at Laurel Land Chapel of Chimes. MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, the family suggest, for those so inclined, memorials in Art's name would be quite appropriate and very much appreciated if given to Fosters Home for children in Stephenville, Texas. Art was born May 17, 1920 near Seymour, TX, where he graduated from high school in 1938. Shortly thereafter he was drafted into the U.S. Military. With World War II looming more imminent, Art joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. His subsequent training led him to assignment to the 13th "Jungle" Air Force as a P38 Fighter pilot in the south pacific. This tour of duty included home bases in New Guinea and the Philippines with multiple mission strikes beyond those to include, among others, the Celebes, Borneo and Saigon. Art eventually retired from the military as Lt. Colonel, Reserves. Graduating from Texas A & M in 1950 and a succeeding engineering career with General Dynamics followed his military tour. His Church of Christ membership was central to his life throughout. All in all, Art said, it was a fabulous ride which included of note his Mom and Dad, wonderful wife Janice, whom he was married to for seventy years; as well as, his brother and four sisters and so many great friends. SURVIVORS: Others, who Art included as having contributed to his life in a special way, would be his son, Marc Powell and his deceased wife, Pat and current wife Cindy.

Time to renew your membership or better yet, come join us. It's easy, just click the link below

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