

Iddings

Funeral services for Colonel Archie T. Iddings Jr., 79, of Livingston, were held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 125, 2007, in the Cochran Funeral Home Chapel, with Ron Rozelle officiating. Cremation was in Restland Crematory Service, Livingston. Colonel Iddings died peacefully on August 20, 2007 in Memorial Health System of East Texas in Lufkin.

He is survived by his wife, Nell Arnold Iddings. They were married in St. Luke's Episcopal Church in February 1987.

Colonel Iddings was a longtime resident of Polk County, having married the late Ann Nixon Iddings, whose hometown was Livingston, at Central Baptist Church in April, 1957. After a military career, they moved permanently to Livingston in 1982. Surviving children and families from that marriage are son, Philip and his wife, Laura Caton Iddings of Livingston; daughter, Mary and her husband, Michael, and their daughters, Kyndra and Jordan Howell of Lewisville; daughter, Catherine and her daughters, McKenzie and Reiley Weaver of Livingston; and daughter, Susan and her husband, Keith, and daughters, Keilah and Reagan Cobb of Livingston. Colonel Iddings is also survived by Lynn Nixon, brother-in-law; Carolyn Nixon sister-in-law; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Colonel Iddings was born on June 20, 1928 in Elkhorn, West Virginia, the son of Tibbs and Margaret Goode Iddings. Both parents are deceased, as is his only sister, Dorothy Iddings, who was a resident of Galveston at the time of her death in 1983. Following his mother's death, his father married Ruby Meneer, who became his loving and supporting stepmother. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ann Nixon Iddings and his dearest friend and sister-in-law, Mary Fern Kohrman..

Colonel Iddings grew up in the coal fields of McDowell County, West Virginia, where he graduated from Gary High School. He received degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia and the Graduate School of Business University of Chicago in Illinois. While at Virginia Tech, he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and a varsity swimmer for three years. His military training led to his being commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. This ceremony took place in the historic aviation center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. His retirement ceremony as a full colonel took place at this same base some 27 years later.

Colonel Iddings had a distinguished and honorable career in the U.S. Air Force. After graduating from pilot training, his operational experience was primarily with jet fighters. Later, as a test pilot, he flew many types in evaluating new aircrafts and armament. Due to his outstanding qualifications, Colonel Iddings was selected as a finalist in the 1959 Project Mercury astronaut selection process.

He had overseas assignments in Asia and Europe. His duties included command and staff assignments, military attache' duty in London and late in his career, he was involved in Air Force management of missile development. He served in two wars – Korea and Vietnam. Following his retirement, he was employed with United Technologies in San Jose, California, as a project manager in their chemical systems division.

Colonel Iddings was a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, Air Force Association, Virginia Tech Monogram Club and Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni