

TARENTINTO, Ronald Tarentino

(Abstracted from <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/telegram/obituary.aspx?pid=180086838>)

LEICESTER - Auburn Patrolman, Ronald Tarentino, Jr., age 42, of Leicester, passed away Sunday, May 22 at UMASS Memorial Hospital in Worcester after sustaining life threatening injuries in the line of duty earlier that day. He leaves his loving wife of 20 years, Tricia S. (Smith) Tarentino, his three sons Private First Class Ronald Tarentino, III with the U.S. Army stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC, Spenser R. and Kyle M. Tarentino of Leicester, his mother Sharon M. (James) and father Ronald Sr., Retired Patrolman for the Medford Police (after serving 42 years) of Tewksbury, his sisters Danielle M. Tarentino of Tewksbury, Jennifer T. (James) McMahon, Jr. and son Aaron of Lowell, Caitlin M. Tarentino of Tewksbury and his maternal grandmother Elaine James of Medford. He also leaves behind father and mother-in-law Wayne and Emily Smith of Meriden, CT, sister and brother-in-law Sharon and Carmelo Ticino, Jr. of Higganum, CT and their children Alyssa, Jessica, Brandon and Christian. Ron was a patrolman for the Auburn Police Dept. for the past 2 years and previously served on the Leicester Police Dept. for 7 years. Born in Melrose and raised in Medford and Tewksbury, he graduated from Tewksbury Memorial High School in 1991 and was co-captain of the basketball team. He later attended Middlesex Community College. He was a devoted husband, father, son, brother and beloved friend to all. Ron was living his lifelong dream of being a police officer and serving the people of his community. He was a member of the Mass. Police Association, the Auburn Elks and Mustangs of Mass. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed archery, hunting and fishing. A funeral service and celebration of Officer Tarentino's life will be held on Friday, May 27th n St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd. Ext., Charlton. Burial will follow at Greenville Baptist Cemetery, Pleasant St, Rochdale. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Officer Ronald Tarentino, Jr. Memorial Fund, c/o Savers Bank, 38 Auburn St., Auburn, MA. 01501. The family has entrusted the care and funeral arrangements of Officer Tarentino with the Morin Funeral Home, 1131 Main St., Leicester, MA.

TATE, Sheldon Tate

(Abstracted from <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/coastalcourier/obituary.aspx?pid=144228427>)

Staff Sgt. Sheldon L. Tate, 27, departed this life July 13, 2010, in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit. A native of Sumter, SC, Staff Sgt. Tate joined the United States Army on Oct. 18, 2001, where he served as a food services specialist. His first assignment was in Darmstadt, Germany. He deployed to Iraq for the first time from October 2003 to February 2004. In April 2004, he was reassigned to Fort Stewart and deployed to Iraq again in January 2005. In July 2006, he went to Fort Bragg and was assigned to 782nd Brigade Support Battalion. He deployed with the unit to Afghanistan from March 2007 to April 2008 and stayed to deploy again in August 2009. His awards and decorations include, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism with Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, three Overseas Service Ribbons, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, Basic Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge. He leaves to cherish his memory his parents, Valerie and Walter Moore; a sister, Ebony Shaunte Moore; wife, Marion Tate; one daughter, Kiante' Nevael Tate; his father, Reginald L. (Trina) Tate; three stepbrothers; one stepsister; grandparents; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members. Dorchester Funeral Home, 7842 E. Oglethorpe Highway in Midway is handling the arrangements. The funeral service will be Saturday, July 24, at Fort Stewart's Marne Chapel. Interment will be Saturday, July 24, at Hillside Memorial Park, 802 N. Guignard Drive, Sumter, SC.

TAYLOR, Guy Wallace Taylor Sr.

(Abstracted from http://www.galvnews.com/obituaries/article_09997b3b-173b-5f39-9ca6-6331a59469e7.html)

Guy Wallace Taylor, Sr. passed away quietly with his wife and son by his side on February 7, 2017. Guy was born on July 13, 1932 in Jonah, TX to Estelle and Ford Taylor. He attended High School in Manor, TX. After graduating, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served in the Korean War. After serving his country and being honorably discharged, Guy made the decision to move to Houston where he met the girl he would later marry, Joan Beier. He began his career in the oilfield exploration industry at National Supply. He would later be employed by Grant Oil Tool Company, Tuboscope, and Lamb Industries before starting up his own company, Guy Services Inc. Guy was a member of the Marine Corps League of Galveston; the Sons of the American Revolution Bernardo de Galvez Chapter # 1; A/1/7 Marine Corp. Association; Spindletop International; and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Guy will be well remembered by his daily tribute to the military at the end of each day by playing "Taps" at sunset from the balcony of his building. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Harrison, Revins, and Jack; and sister, Marguerite. Guy is survived by his wife of 58 years, Joan, and son, Guy Jr. He is also survived by numerous sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins, all of whom loved him very much. Funeral Services will be Friday, February 10th at Malloy & Son Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Galveston. Pallbearers will be the Marine Corp League of Galveston.

THATCHER, David Jonathan Thatcher

(Abstracted from <http://thisainthell.us/blog/?p=66494>)

The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders announced the passing of Staff Sergeant David J. Thatcher, age 94, who was the engineer-gunner for Crew 7 (Ruptured Duck). That leaves only Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole, the co-pilot for Crew 1 as the sole survivor of that secret mission to payback Japan for the raid on Pearl Harbor. After bombing targets in Tokyo, [The pilot of #7, Lieutenant Ted] Lawson headed the plane towards China. Running low on fuel, Lawson tried to land the plane on a beach in darkness and heavy rain, but instead crashed in the surf after hitting a wave causing the plane to flip over. The crash seriously injured all the members of the crew except for Thatcher, who was briefly knocked out in the crash but suffered only a bump to his head. After regaining consciousness and making it to shore, Thatcher saved the lives of his crew by gathering them on the beach, administering first aid and making contact with some friendly Chinese guerillas who had come upon the crew. He convinced the guerillas to take the crew to safety in inland China. Over the next few days, the crew repeatedly barely escaped capture by Japanese patrols searching for the Raiders. For his bravery in saving the lives of his crew, Thatcher was awarded the Silver Star. His other decorations included the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Chinese Army, Navy and Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st Grade. After they were rescued, Thatcher went on to fly 26 more missions over Africa and Europe until the war ended. He was discharged in 1945. Thatcher married the love of his life for 70 years, Margaret Dawn Goddard Thatcher, and worked for the Post Office until his retirement in 1980. A funeral service will be Monday, June 27 at Garden City Funeral Home in Missoula, MT. A full military ceremony with honors will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens where Thatcher will be buried. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be given to the Doolittle Raiders Foundation for scholarships or the River Valley Church, 308 W. Pine St., Missoula, MT 59803.

THEODORE, Joseph M. Theodore, Jr.

(Abstracted from information received from Elmer's sister, Jeanette, who was one of Mr. Theodore's students)

Joseph M. Theodore, Jr., age 83, died Friday, April 10, 2015 at his residence in Ada, Ohio. He was born April 29, 1931 to Joseph Medeiros Theodore Sr. and Lillian Lima Theodore in Fall River, MA. Joe was a loving and dutiful son and worked hard to fulfill his parent's dreams for him. He was an excellent student and a trusted and respected friend to many. Joe was a talented musician; he loved playing guitar, and singing in bands and on the radio station WALE in the Fall River area during his teenage years. He met his future wife, Theresa Rouleau, at Durfee High School when they played leading roles in an operetta. Accepted to the New England Conservatory of Music after high school, Joe continued his musical training there before changing direction to a career in Pharmacy and Education. He earned a BS from the New England College of Pharmacy in 1955 and married his high school sweetheart and leading lady, Theresa, the same year. Relocating to Wisconsin to pursue a master's degree, they welcomed their first child, Karen ('56) and Joe received an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin in 1958. Returning to Massachusetts, Joe became Assistant Professor of Pharmacy at Northeastern University in Boston ('58-'66) while completing his PhD from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 1965. Joe and Terry joyfully expanded their family during this time with four more children, Richard ('58), Sharon ('60), Carolyn ('61) and Lauren ('65). The family moved to Ada, Ohio, in 1966 where Joe became an Associate Professor of Pharmacy and the Department Chair at Ohio Northern University and was promoted to Professor in 1972. During his 32 years at ONU, Joe put his heart and soul into the work of teaching and mentoring thousands of pharmacy students. He also administered financial aid for pharmacy students, and freely gave his personal time and affection to tutor and advise "his kids" as well as assist other faculty members, and the pharmacy community. Joe created and developed the Clinical Pharmacy Internship program at ONU and served as an advisor to the Kappa Psi pharmacy fraternity. He was awarded the ONU Pharmacy Alumni Chair in 1995-96. Prior to his retirement in 1998, Joe led the curriculum committee that developed the Doctor of Pharmacy program. Many of Joe's students and colleagues have stayed in touch through the years, expressing their gratitude for his guidance and friendship. Joe was devoted to his family, his church, and music. He tutored his children in music, and math and science whenever they needed his help, and sometimes when they didn't think they needed his help. He served a term as president of the Ada PTA where his five children all attended. He was a soloist, cantor, occasional choir director, and guitarist at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church for nearly 50 years, providing music for countless weekend services, weddings and funerals and mentoring other cantors. Later in life, Joe became interested in cooking and enjoyed cooking shows, new recipes and gadgets. His favorite recipes included those from his Portuguese heritage, New England seafood and anything with beef. He was a fan of Boston area sports including Redsox, Celtics, Bruins and Patriots. Joe was a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Terry of nearly 60 years, a generous and loving father to his children: Karen (Gene) Harris, Richard (Paula) Theodore, Sharon (Mark) Athearn, Carolyn Theodore (Mark Mecenas) and Lauren (Louis) Mazzoli, and a doting grandfather to his many grandchildren, whom he loved to tease mercilessly. Hanson-Neely Funeral Home in Ada is handling the arrangements. A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Tuesday, April 14 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Ada. He will be laid to rest in his ancestral burial plot in Notre Dame Cemetery in Fall River, Mass. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to: Pancreatic Cancer Action Network www.pancan.org or www.purplestride.org/columbus or Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

THOMAS, Cameron H. Thomas

(Abstracted from <http://thefallen.militarytimes.com/sgt-cameron-h-thomas/6568702>)

Sgt. Cameron H Thomas, died April 27, 2017 while serving during Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Sgt. Cameron H. Thomas, age 22, of Kettering, Ohio, died April 27, 2017, in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, as a result of small arms fire while engaged in dismounted operations. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia.

THOMAS, Ivy Esther (Potter) Thomas

(Abstracted from the Anniston (AL) Star January 26, 2001 for Patty Martin, a friend of Elmer's)
Services for Ivy Esther (Potter) Thomas, 73, of 2217 Rose Ave., Oxford, AL will be Saturday at Blue Springs Baptist Church. Burial will be in Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery with Miller Funeral Home in charge. Mrs. Thomas died Thursday (January 25th) at her home. Survivors include her husband, Walter Franklin Thomas of Oxford; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Robert Wayne Thomas and Gail Thomas, both of Brooksville, FL and Stephen Keith Thomas and Paty Thomas and Walter Ronald Thomas, all of Kissimmee, FL two daughters and their husbands, Patricia Martin and Tom Martin, both of Miami and Annette Bard and Tom Bard of Brooksville; three sisters, Alice Pruet of Alexandria, Dicie Williams of Anniston and Ann Schneider of Harrisburg, PA; and 10 grandchildren, Robert Wayne Thomas Jr., Mary Thomas, Susan Thomas, Cindy Thomas, Eric Thomas, Keith Thomas, Halley Thomas, Emily Martin, Justin Bard and Kevin Bard. Mrs. Thomas was a resident of Oxford since 1946 coming from Fayette County. She and Mr. Thomas celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on Christmas Eve. She was a member of Blue Springs Baptist Church. Flowers will be accepted or donations can be made to the Hospice of East Alabama or Blue Springs Baptist Church.

THOMAS, Peter Thomas

(Abstracted from internet sources)

Peter Thomas, age 91, a voice-over icon and World War II veteran, died Saturday, nearly two years after he lost his wife and high school sweetheart, Stella Barrineau Thomas. His distinctive vocal cords made him a part of Americana, but locally Peter Thomas became famous for his humanitarian heart. "He was loved by so many people," said Peter Thomas Jr., the 65-year-old son who was by his father's side in Naples when he passed, along with Peter Thomas's two other children, Doug Thomas and Elizabeth Joyoprayitno. During a career that spanned seven decades, Peter Thomas lent his smooth and silky baritone to everything from commercials to documentaries, his most well-known work being the narrator of "Forensic Files." He was a radio announcer, a newspaper reporter, television anchor for CBS New York and finally, a voice-over actor. Born in Pensacola to a Presbyterian minister, Peter Thomas had a strict upbringing, but he credited it as instrumental to his future career. In a 2014 interview, Peter Thomas said his Welsh father required him to read and memorize Bible passages, and encouraged him to paint mental pictures of words while speaking. In high school, Peter Thomas started reading poetry and news on the local radio station. That's when he met Stella. After spotting her at a school dance, he began to woo Stella by dedicating a song and poem to her on his show. Stella and Peter Thomas were married on June 29, 1946, and raised three children together in Greenwich, CT. The couple purchased a home in Naples in 1966 on a whim during a vacation, but they didn't move to Southwest Florida permanently until 1985, as Peter Thomas continued to travel extensively for his career. Peter Thomas Jr. and Joyoprayitno both mentioned that one of their most cherished memories was being taken to numerous Broadway shows by their parents, who wanted their children to have an appreciation for the arts. "He was a very caring person and very caring father," Joyoprayitno said. "He would do anything at all that you asked of him. You didn't have to ask him twice. He cared so much for other people." The love of performance art was definitely a trait that was passed on, as both Peter Thomas Jr. and Doug Thomas have also worked as voice-over actors, as well as one of Peter Thomas's seven grandchildren. The couple also had two great-grandchildren. In 1943, Peter Thomas volunteered for the Army and was shipped out to Europe that December. Several months later, he was on the shores of Normandy, France replacing soldiers killed the day before in the D-Day invasion. "I was 19 when I joined the war. My parents were immigrants who did their part during the First World War. Being an immigrant child, my parents inculcated in me a love of this country," Peter Thomas said in a 2007 Naples Daily News interview. "They would say to me, 'Remember you are living in the greatest country in the world with opportunities and a chance to do anything you want.' They said that to me with an expectation that I'd give back to my country." "My parents lost so many people in the First World War. I grew up hearing all these stories about my family in that war. You know, my Uncle Bill was in the trenches of France in World War I. I had to go and do my part as well," he continued. "I think that was a general feeling all the way through America at that time. Everybody wanted to go. Not like today." While overseas, he fought through France, Belgium and crossed the Rhine into Germany while serving with the First Infantry Division. In addition to Normandy, he was in four other major campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge and was issued a Battle Star for each of the five campaigns as well as the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Unit French Croix de Guerre and Belgian Fourragère. Upon returning to the states, Peter Thomas traveled to New York and fell right back into voice work there. He connected with Walter Cronkite to produce "The Jack Paar Show." "I did that for eight years. They offered me a chance to do the 11 o'clock news. But then corporate sent these contracts over saying I couldn't do anything but CBS news programs," Peter Thomas said. "I wanted to do documentaries and commercials as well and didn't want to limit myself. It wasn't for me. Later, Walter told me I made the right decision. He said, 'They made me retire at 65.' And, I said, 'I'm still going as long as the voice holds up.'" That is exactly what Peter Thomas did, working until almost the end of his life. Along with narrating all 403 episodes of "Forensic Files" during its 17-season run, the legendary

voice-over actor has a body of work too numerous to list. He also won innumerable awards, but the one he was most proud of was receiving an Oscar for "One Survivor Remembers," an HBO documentary about concentration camp survivor Gerda Weissman Klein. While Peter Thomas was most known for his serious voice on documentaries, he also had quite a funny bone. That was shown in multiple commercials, particularly in one he did for Cool Whip. "The images you are about to see may be difficult to look at," Peter Thomas says in his unique pensive tone for the commercial, as images of limp, sad-looking cakes are shown. "Sadly, every year millions of innocent cakes are mangled, mistreated and hurt, but there is something you can do. Go to the freezer section and pick up new Cool Whip frosting." While the mention of his name didn't always evoke recognition, Peter Thomas's voice was one millions of people worldwide immediately recognized. That wasn't surprising, seeing as how it could be heard pretty much everywhere one looked. As he was being recognized at the 2014 Marine Corps League of Naples Honor the Free Press event, a speaker reminded the audience that Peter Thomas was the one responsible for the famous "Don't leave home without it" line in the American Express commercials. He's also the man who was asked to record instructions for Philips's HeartStart automated external defibrillator (AED) devices, because as Peter Thomas put it, "they wanted a voice that wouldn't scare people." Thanks to his calm, reassuring tone, the devices have helped save many lives. "I had somebody on a plane tell me, 'You saved my life,'" Thomas said in a 2014 interview. "There happened to be an AED machine and they followed the instructions. He said if the machine hadn't been there, he wouldn't have been there. It's a wonderful feeling to know that you're doing something that is contributing to mankind." (His voice) still amazes me," said Peter Thomas Jr. "Dad has piles of fan mail from all over the world. He was known internationally because of 'Forensic Files'." The executive producer of that show, Paul Dowling, understands that better than most. "It got to the point quickly where Peter not only became a part of the show, it was where we gave him no direction," Dowling said, because Peter Thomas was known for always being extremely prepared and knowledgeable about the subject matter. While Dowling said he has been encouraged many times to bring "Forensic Files" back, the producer doesn't think it will be possible. The show's reruns are broadcast in the U.S. on the HLN network and syndicated internationally. "He can't be replaced," Dowling said. "He was that great at it. I don't want to water it down or change it." Peter Thomas was known for his love of veterans. He contributed his time, voice and more to the cause close to his heart, working on various committees and organizations whose goals were to honor and recognize those who fought for this nation's freedom, like himself. "When I see American soldiers, I think, 'That's the greatest thing we have in this country — the American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. These are the same kind of guys, with the same kind of courage that we had in the Second World War,'" Peter Thomas said in 2007. "They need to know, they are beloved." Many years after returning from WWII, Peter Thomas wrote a poem about that and titled "Omaha Beach." He would later go on to recite it during a 2013 Memorial Day ceremony at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Amy Snyder, the executive director of the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida, said Peter Thomas "was a giant of a man — a true gentleman and a humble servant." "Because of his role in WWII as a liberator of the Nordhausen concentration camp, Peter wanted to make certain the story continued to be told," she said. "He supported the Holocaust Museum in many ways — from narrating the museum's original audio tour and documentary, to sharing his WWII experience with high school students. Peter was always gracious with his time and the students learned so much from him. He will be greatly missed, but has left a lasting legacy for future generations." Stella and Peter Thomas were a love story come to life. She meant more to him than many people realize, family and friends said. "They were a team. They supported each other in everything they did," Joyoprayitno said on Monday from the couple's 10th Avenue South home in Naples. "But (Peter) gave Stella the credit for everything he did." Therefore, losing her was a major blow to Peter Thomas's life, and particularly his health, his children said. She passed away on June 16, 2014. "This past year and a half were very difficult without Stella," Joyoprayitno said, adding that a recent infection after visiting a dermatologist was causing her father a lot of pain. With his children flying in to be by his side, Peter Thomas seemed to finally be at peace. "We were encouraging him to let go," his daughter said. "It seemed to happen in the most beautiful way. We witnessed him making the conscious decision to let go of this life. We're very happy that he is no longer suffering. It's the end of an era. The Peter and Stella era. It's bittersweet," she said. The family is finalizing funeral arrangements with the pastor of Naples Community Church where the couple attended, but plan to open the service to the public.

THOMPSON, Brent Alan Thompson

(Abstracted from <http://www.griffin-roughton.com/obituaries/Brent-Thompson-3/#!/Obituary>)

Brent Alan Thompson of Corsicana, Texas was shot and killed Thursday, July 7, 2016 in the line of duty in Dallas, Texas. A celebration of life service, open for everyone, will be held at the Potter's House located at 6777 W Kiest Blvd., Dallas TX, 75236 on Wednesday, July 13, 2016. A second celebration of life service, for the friends and loved ones of Brent, will be held at Northside Baptist located at 2800 N Beaton Street, Corsicana TX, 75110 on Wednesday, July 13, 2016. A private burial will follow and is closed to family only. Griffin-Roughton, 1530 North 45th St., Corsicana TX, 75110 handled the arrangements. Brent is survived by his wife Emily, daughter Courtney, daughter Katie, son Jake, daughter Lizzie, daughter Sandy, son William, daughter-in-law Elizabeth, stepson Cameron, grandson Aiden, grandson Mason, granddaughter Isabella, mother Paulette, father Robert Sam, brother Lowell and his wife Brandy, brother Darrell and his wife Jenny, brother-in-law Enrique "Chito" Flores and his wife Brandi, sister-in-law Jessica Stovall and her husband Doug, former spouse Sondra Thompson, former mother-in-law Sandra Flores, nieces Kieleigh and Samantha, and nephews Mike, Jared, and Eli. Brent would have been 44 on July 26. Brent

worked as a Corsicana Police Officer before joining the Dallas Dart Police department as an officer. He also served in the Marines and worked in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He was a loving father who loved family and life. He also loved helping others. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, playing the guitar, and working as a police officer.

THORSNESS, Leo Thorsness

(Abstracted from <http://www.craigfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Leo-Thorsness/#!/Obituary>)

Medal of Honor recipient Col. Leo K. Thorsness died Tuesday in St. Augustine, FL, according to a news release from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. He was 85. The U.S. Air Force veteran was shot down over North Vietnam and subsequently held captive by the North Vietnamese at the Hoa Lo Prison, nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton." He was released on March 4, 1973, almost six years after he was shot down. He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard Nixon on Oct. 15, 1973. He retired from the Air Force in 1973. Thorsness was born Feb. 14, 1932 in Walnut Grove, MN, where he earned the Eagle Scout award from the Boy Scouts of America. He is one of only nine known Eagle Scouts who also received the Medal of Honor. In 2010, Thorsness received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. He attended South Dakota State College in 1950 and enlisted in the Air Force a year later. He graduated from the Aviation Cadet Program with a commission earning his wings. He served as a fighter pilot with Strategic Air Command and Tactical Air Command before he was sent to Vietnam with the 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron. He and his wingman were shot down in April 1967. He is survived by his wife Gaylee. Funeral services have not been announced.

The President of the United States in the name of the Congress takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor to:

LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEO K. THORSNESS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

For service as set forth in the following citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. As pilot of an F-105 aircraft, Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness was on a surface-to-air missile suppression mission over North Vietnam. Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness and his wingman attacked and silenced a surface-to-air missile site with air-to-ground missiles and then destroyed a second surface-to-air missile site with bombs. In the attack on the second missile site, Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness' wingman was shot down by intensive antiaircraft fire, and the two crew members abandoned their aircraft.

Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness circled the descending parachutes to keep the crew members in sight and relay their position to the Search and Rescue Center. During this maneuver, a MIG-17 was sighted in the area. Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness immediately initiated an attack and destroyed the MIG. Because his aircraft was low on fuel, he was forced to depart the area in search of a tanker.

Upon being advised that two helicopters were orbiting over the downed crew's position and that there were hostile MIGs in the area posing a serious threat to the helicopters, Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness, despite his low fuel condition, decided to return alone through a hostile environment of surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft defenses to the downed crew's position. As he approached the area, he spotted four MIG-17 aircraft and immediately initiated an attack on the MIGs, damaging one and driving the others away from the rescue scene. When it became apparent that an aircraft in the area was critically low on fuel and the crew would have to abandon the aircraft unless they could reach a tanker, Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness, although critically short on fuel himself, helped to avert further possible loss of life and a friendly aircraft by recovering at a forward operating base, thus allowing the aircraft in emergency fuel condition to refuel safely.

Lieutenant Colonel Thorsness' extraordinary heroism, self-sacrifice and personal bravery involving conspicuous risk of life were in the highest traditions of the military service, and have reflected great credit upon himself and the U.S. Air Force.

TOWERS, Frank Winchester Towers Sr.

(Abstracted from <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gainesville/obituary.aspx?pid=180584812>)

Frank Winchester Towers Sr., age 99 Gainesville, FL died Monday, July 4, 2016 in Gainesville, FL. He leaves his loving wife of 73 years, Mary Olive (Thomas), a son, Frank Jr. of Orlando, FL, daughters Jane King of Jacksonville, FL, Anne (Rolf) Kuhns of Winter Garden, FL, and Kathy (the late Dr. Peter Teal) Teal of Gainesville, FL, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Born in Boston, MA on June 13, 1917, to Everett and Jane Winchester Towers, he lived in Boston for 10 years then for the remainder of his childhood was raised in St. Johnsbury, VT, where he attended and graduated from the St. Johnsbury Academy. After high school he was employed as an insurance claims adjuster with the Commercial Credit Corp. Later Mr. Towers enlisted in the Vermont National Guard. His military training took him to Camp Blanding FL, just outside of Starke, where he would meet his future wife, Mary Olive Thomas. They were married in a military wedding on March 1, 1943 in Macon, GA. He was commissioned an officer in the Army and was transferred to the 30th Infantry Division just prior to the Normandy Invasion of World War II. At that time he became a liaison officer and held this position for the duration of the war. He left the US Army with the rank of Captain. During his service in the military, Mr. Towers received many awards for recognition of valor and bravery, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Clusters, and others. Following the war, Mr. Towers and his wife returned to Germany for post-war occupation duty, and during this time three of their children were born, and their fourth was born after returning to the States. They settled down in Brooker, FL, near his wife's family farm, and Mr. Towers built the house that he and his wife live in to this day. After service in the Army, Mr. Towers was self-employed, he served one term as a

Trustee on the Alachua County School Board, and was later employed by the University of Florida, from which he retired in 1979. In retirement, Mr. Towers was dedicated to the phrase 'lest we forget', and became passionately involved in ensuring the history of the 30th Infantry Division of the US Army was shared, and that their comrades who 'gave their all' would not be forgotten. He was the National President and Executive Secretary of the 30th Infantry Division Veterans of World War II Association. He co-founded Les Fleurs de la Memorie, a foundation in France dedicated to caring for the graves of American soldiers who are interred in France and Belgium. He became the consummate historian of the 30th Infantry Division. He was a Camp Blanding Museum Association charter member and served in a number of roles for the Association over the years. He was an 'in-demand' speaker to groups with an interest of the Holocaust and all things related to the history of the 30th Infantry Division in World War II. His speaking engagements spanned Northern Europe, Israel, and the United States. His story-telling style of speaking captured his audiences and resulted in opportunities for further historical research with people around the world. Locally, Mr. Towers received the Alachua County Veteran of the Year Award on two occasions, and was active in the D-Day Normandy Veterans of North Central Florida. In addition to his family, Mr. Towers was particularly proud of the presentation of the Order of Orange Nassau, from Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. The equivalent of the Medal of Freedom in the United States, it was awarded to Mr. Towers because of the good-will he promoted over the years between the United States and The Netherlands. He has been the only non-Dutch individual to receive this award. And, for having served in WWII in France, he was awarded the distinction of Knight of the French Legion of Honor, an order first established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. Milam Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Funeral Services will be Friday, July 8, 2016 at St. Madeleine's Catholic Church, 17155 NW Hwy 441, High Springs, FL 32643. Interment at Forest Meadows Cemetery - East, 3700 SE Hawthorne Rd., Gainesville, FL 32641 In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to: The Camp Blanding Museum 5629 SR 16 West Building 3040 Starke, FL 32091 or, to Les Fleurs de la MÃ©moire Georges Pierre Joret Le Bourg 50810 VIDOUVILLE France.

TREPTOW - Pvt. Martin Treptow

(Abstracted from several wire services)

Pvt. Martin Treptow was born in 1894 in Bloomer, Chippewa County, WI died July 28, 1918 in France. He was a WWI Soldier. During the First World War, a young man - a barber in peacetime - enlisted in the Iowa National Guard. Soon he found himself part of the 168th Infantry of the 42nd Division, the Rainbow Division. In July of 1918, the 42nd was committed to battle against the Germans to reduce the Marne Salient. In spite of withering machine gun fire and heavy artillery bombardment, the 168th Infantry took their objective. During the assault on Hill 212 on La Croix Rouge Farm, as the battle drew to an end, a messenger was needed to deliver an important word to one of the platoons. Private Martin A. Treptow grabbed the message and moved out under fire. As he reached the platoon leader, Treptow was shot down by a hail of bullets. Later, in policing up Treptow's personal effects, a diary was found in the blood-stained blouse of this doughboy. Written in Treptow's own hands on the flyleaf under the heading, on December 31, 1917, he had written these words: "The end of a long Journey, now bring on your Wars, 1918 Revolution, America must win this war, therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost as if the whole issue of the struggle depended on me alone." Pvt. Martin Treptow is buried in Bloomer City Cemetery, Bloomer, Chippewa County, WI