

Thomas Burk Wood passed away March 24, 2017 at his home on TLC Ranch near Boerne, TX, surrounded by his children. He was born March 19, 1922 in Ewing, NE to John Burk and Myrtle, nee McDermott, Wood. He enlisted in the Army 19 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor at the age of 19 and went on to Serve 33 years in the Army Air Corps and Air Force, retiring as a Brigadier General in 1974. He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II and completed Officer Candidate School in Australia after just two years Enlisted Service. After commissioning, he was assigned as Executive Officer to the 80th Fighter Squadron flying P-38s in numerous locations as Allied forces advanced toward Japan. He set a record for youngest promotion to the rank of Major at just 23 years of age in 1946. After WWII, he became a rated Air Force Pilot and completed a distinguished Air Force career with assignments in Europe, the Pacific, and stateside, retiring from the National Security Agency in Washington D.C. After Air Force retirement he worked for Rockwell International before fully retiring and pursuing a passion for horse showing. General Wood was preceded in death by his parents; two older brothers, Roland and Francis Wood; three wives, Olga nee Mathews, Mary nee Gillis, and Carol nee Chapman; one son, Thomas Burk Wood, Junior; and two grandsons, Nigel Hayward, and Shawn Wood. He is survived by children Pam Hayward, Diedre Edwards, Barbara Hillin, Patricia New, and James Wood; 14 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.