

DRAFT OBITUARY: LESTER GEORGE TAYLOR, JR. # 13227

DIED: FLEMINGTON NJ; 8 SEPTEMBER 1978; a-59

INTERMENT:

Lester Taylor came to us out of Kansas City, as one of the elder members of the Class. While West Point was a strange environment to him at first, it did not take long for his natural cheerfulness to make him at home. He had many friends in Class and Company, friends who turned naturally to him for advice and counsel. He played football as a Plebe, and favored the choir with his singing for four years.

As was the case with many classmates, Les was intrigued by the Air Corps and left for flight training during First Class summer. He graduated with wings and left for further fighter training before going to Europe with the 369th Fighter Squadron of the 359th Group out of the UK. By October of 1944 he had won three DFCs and 5 Air Medals. It was time for rotation home under Air Corps rules, and assignment to a series of Air Training Command posts, some of which required TDY to London.

The quality, dedication and daring of his combat duty is well reflected in his many citations. To quote from only a few:
" (Here we need the wording of one or more of the DFC citations)"

By the fall of 1949, as a Major, Les was well into the specialty of flight safety. By 1950 he was the Director of Flight Safety Research at Norton AFB in California. (Here we need to know locations and further assignments until 1965) In 1965 he joined the 8th Air Force as _____. In 1966 he retired after 23 years of service.

Shortly after graduation, Les met a girl from Pennsylvania through mutual friends. ~~Their romance was quick. At first they were going to wait until he came home, but then they decided to wed before he went overseas.~~ On 29 June, 1943, in ~~St. Patrick's Cathedral of New York City,~~ Les and Genevieve were married. Three children were to bless that union: 2 sons and a daughter.

While still on active duty, Les and Genevieve had bought a home in Toms River, New Jersey; so it was to New Jersey that they decided to retire. Les quickly went to work as an administrator with Trenton State College, a post he held until his death. Struck by the beauty and quality of the town of Flemington, they moved there, where Genevieve still lives. In early September of 1968, just a few weeks before his sixtieth birthday, ~~Les was hit with a massive internal hemorrhage. His death was both sudden and unexpected.~~ He is

buried in _____.

January 1943 has lost a valued member of the Class -- a brave airman from World War II who continued to serve the cause of education after leaving active duty. The three awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross are open testimony to the contribution he made to the Free World. He is survived by Genevieve; by Wayne, who lives in Dallas and works in accounting; by Patricia, who works for Prince Manufacturing; by Steve, who is a branch manger for Sealand in Chicago; by his father and mother; and by his sister.

+ brother + grand daughter.

- A Classmate