



**Dr. George T. Hankins** passed peacefully at home on the afternoon of December 18th, 2020 at the age of 95. Born in rural England Arkansas, he grew up during the Great Depression, graduated high school in 1943, became an Army Air Corps Cadet in 1944 and joined the U.S. Air Force to fulfill his dream of flight. During the Berlin Airlift (1949), George flew C-47s and C-54s bringing food, clothes and fuel to East Berliners blockaded by the Soviet Union. In 1951 he married Virginia Lynn Lotts, one of the first United Airlines stewardesses and over time military duty took them to Alaska, Louisiana, Texas and Ohio. George received his Engineering degree from the Air Force Institute of Technology, was a celebrated Air Force pilot and advanced to the USAF Foreign Technology Division and monitored Soviet missiles and space vehicles in the early 1960s. After retiring from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel, George was a professor of electrical engineering at Wright State University in Ohio (1967 - 1980) and the University of the Pacific in California (1980 - 1989) where he retired as Professor Emeritus. His autobiography, "The Time of Our Lives" recounts some of his adventures as well as his childhood recollections. George is survived by four children, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren and will be greatly missed.

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