

HOWARD, Elson Irving, Lt. Col. USAF Retired Age 95, passed away peacefully on Feb. 19, 2018 at Cornerstone Hospice and Palliative Care in Tavares, FL. He was born in Paducah, KY, graduated from Tilghman High School, received an AA from Paducah Junior College, a BS in Chemistry from University of Kentucky, and an MBA in Engineering Management from the University of Connecticut. He retired from the USAF as a pilot after 29 years and resided in Fairborn, OH until he moved to Florida in 2012. He was a troop carrier pilot during WWII and served during the Korean conflict and in Vietnam. He was a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Fairborn, OH, the Mason's, the Scottish Rite, the Altos, Valley of Daedalians, Order of KY Col., NAICC and Pilot's class of 1944. He loved outdoor activities and had a passion for golf. Elson was preceded in death by his father, John M. Howard, his mother Della Wallace Howard, his sisters Blanche Davis and Sallie Whitis, and brothers John Cecil and James Marvin. He was survived by his wife of 68 years, Virginia Ruth, and three children, John E. Howard (Tee Gee), of Atlanta, GA, Cynthia A. Morris (Kenneth) of Mt. Dora, FL, Philip M. Howard (Julie) of Merritt Island, FL. He had eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Elson, as a member of the Greatest Generation, endured the hardships of both the Great Depression and WWII. Visitation will be held on Friday, May 18, 2018 from 5 7pm and funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 19 at 10am at the Lindsey Funeral Home, Paducah, KY. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to your local hospice center or the Alzheimer's Association. A memorial service will also be held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Fairborn, OH on June 6, 2018 at 11AM.