

Deceased Name: **Colonel Bullock**

was born on June 23, 1921 in Lincoln County, Mississippi son of Samuel D. and Lottie Griffith Bullock. He was the third of eleven children. He graduated from Utica High School, Mississippi and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from St Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas (Magna cum laude). He entered the Army Air Corps in June 1940 and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant on completion of Army Air Forces Officer Candidate School in October 1942 and rated as Pilot in January 1944 on completion of Advanced Pilot training at Ft. Sumner, NM. He completed Air Tactical School in 1948 and Air Command and Staff School in 1957.

Colonel Bullock was assigned to the European Theater of Operations and flew 42 combat missions in A-26/A-20 Light Bombardment aircraft during WWII. He flew as "flight lead" as a 2nd Lt. On a mission during his units transitioning from A-20 to A-26 aircraft; he was flight deputy lead in an A-20 with lead flying an A-20. An A-26 was flying in the more difficult number two position. Colonel Bullock changed positions allowing the A-26 to fly the easier lead position. Later on the bomb run, the A-26 was hit and lost a wing and entire crew. On a subsequent mission, his aircraft was hit, and his crew bailed out over Alsace Lorraine. He had to almost throw one of the gunners out of the aircraft. Fortunately, the crew landed on "General Patton's side of the bulge in the allied lines".

Bullock flew transport missions in Korea and tactical airlift missions in Vietnam. He also participated in United Nations airlift support during the rebellion in the Republic of Congo (1960-1961), and support if Indian Forces opposing Chinese invasion of Northern India (1962-1963).

Following WWII, Colonel Bullock served in a succession of staff assignments in Air Transportation Command and Military Air Transport Service (MATS) advancing to air transport squadron commander as a Major at Kelly AFB in 1952. Following assignments to the Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel office, Headquarters, USAF, he was assigned to France in 1960, where he served as Base Commander at Evreux Air Base and as C-130 Squadron Commander operating in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He was promoted to Colonel during this assignment. On return to the US in 1963, he served as Deputy for Operations in a Tactical Airlift Wing then as Commander of a Combat Crews training Wing in Tactical Air Command (TAC). During this assignment, he participated in a number of major exercises to develop and test new airlift concepts and procedures – included were "Delaware" in Turkey and Iran, "Desert Strike" and the "Indian River/Gold Fire" series in Florida and Missouri. On completion of assignment to Tactical Air Command, he was assigned to Tactical Airlift units in Vietnam supporting Army Ground Forces in 1966-1967. He logged over 8500 hours as a pilot. Colonel Bullock retired at MacDill AFB on December 1, 1971. His final four years of active duty in the Air Force were with HQ US Strike Command as Operations Staff Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff. Colonel Bullock holds the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with 10 Clusters, the Joint Service Medal with Cluster and the Air Force Commendation Medal with Cluster in addition to numerous campaign medals with battle stars.

Colonel Bullock is married to Donetha Crist from Phoenix, Arizona. They had three sons: Capt. R. Gregory (USAF), Stephen, and Thomas, all predeceased their parents. They have two grandchildren: Eric Gregory Bullock is a photographer in Boston and Laura Bullock, an analyst for the State of Georgia in Atlanta.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Colonel Bullock lived in Colorado Springs. From 1972, he was in Real Estate Operations involving investments, brokerage, and land development in Colorado. In later years as his mobility decreased, Ralph returned to his first investment love – stocks. Possessed of a brilliant mind, he quickly became conversant with the computer, corresponding with his many friends and daily with his eldest son, Greg, until Greg's untimely death in 1995, while jogging. He and Donna lost their three sons, events of incredible sadness and trauma to both of them as they loved their family before all else.

Ralph would never give up at anything. He does his best in walking and speaking and doing what he can in the stock market. A fighter in three wars, pilot, paratrooper, realtor, land developer, brilliant Colonel, sincere friend, wise counselor – how we all respect, admire and love him; have learned from him; and try to emulate just a little bit of his excellence.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held for Colonel Bullock on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., at the USAFA Catholic Cadet Chapel (please use north gate at the Academy). A visitation will be held on Sunday, March 14, at the Shrine of Remembrance "America the Beautiful" Chapel of Roses from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. A private entombment will be performed at Shrine of Remembrance Mausoleum Gate of Heaven.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The American Parkinson Disease Association at 1250 Hylan Blvd., Suite 4B, Staten Island, NY 10305.

Gazette, The (Colorado Springs, CO)

Date: March 12, 2004