

**Deceased Name: BOYD, MAJ (Ret) BILLIE B., JR.**

BOYD, MAJ (Ret) BILLIE B., JR. , age 82 of Rutledge, passed peacefully March 20, 2008. Mr. Boyd was 16 years old when he enlisted in the Army Air Force from McCool, MS in May 1942. He was the current Tennessee State Commander of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, which maintains a national roster including enlistees at ages 12-16 in the various branches of service in WWII and Korean eras. During WWII Mr. Boyd flew 50 combat missions as engineer-gunner with 386th BG (B-26 Marauders/England, July 1943 - April 1944), and participated in the harrowing Berlin Airlift/Frankfurt/C-54s. Mr. Boyd was directly commissioned from the ranks in 1950 and served as aircraft maintenance officer at Barksdale AFB, LA; Keesler AFB, MS; Evreux, France and Homestead, FL. Mr. Boyd was a pioneer in the United States Air Force Missile Program. From 1962-1965 he was the missile maintenance shops officer in the 556th SMS (Atlas-F) at Plattsburgh, NY. He was instrumental in formulating the Sector Maintenance Concept adopted throughout Strategic Air Command in 1964. He voluntarily retired in the grade of regular Major, March 1, 1965. He was the plant manager at Knoxville's St. Mary's Hospital from 1966-1974. He was the Youth Services Officer in Grainger County from 1978-1986. Both he and his wife (also a veteran of WWII) served in the East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard. He is preceded in death by his parents, Billie and Mabel Boyd of Kosciusko, MS. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Juanita Jean Jones Boyd; his children, John Boyd and Sherry Boyd Burchfield; grandchildren, Shannon Boyd, Holly Boyd, Stacey Horton, Jacob Horton and Samuel Burchfield; and great-grandchild, Gabriel Boyd. The family will receive friends from 6-8 P.M. Monday, March 24, 2008 in the chapel of Smith Funeral Home. Mr. Boyd will be laid to rest, with full Military Honors 11:30 A.M., Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery in Knoxville. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Kingswood School P.O. Box 5000 Bean Station, Tennessee. Arrangements By: Smith Funeral Home Rutledge, Tennessee.