

1923-2015

CHICO: Lt. Col. Jesse Curtis Wilkins, 91, died Tuesday, September 8, 2015 in Chico.

Jesse Curtis Wilkins was born November 29, 1923, in Portland, Oregon, to parents Dovie and Jesse Eric Wilkins. After high school, he worked at the old Montgomery Ward building in Fort Worth, where he met his wife of 73 years, Jimmie Ruth Pebworth. During their first year of marriage, Jesse joined the Army Air Corps and after schooling became a pilot, later flying forty-plus missions during WWII in the Italian theater in his P-51, Ginning Jimmie. After the war he remained in the Air Force and after 23 years of service retired with a rank of Lt. Col. He then turned in his wings for a tractor and worked as a farmer and rancher with a herd of Black Angus on 140 acres in Chico, Texas. He and Jimmie were active members of the First Baptist Church in Chico, and he was a deacon for many years there.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Donald Wilkins and his son, Ronald Wilkins.

Jesse is survived by his wife, Jimmie; daughters: Pamela Rohr and Patti Biffar; daughter-in-law, Beverly Wilkins; grandchildren: Jesse Wayne Wilkins and wife, Denise; Angela Wilkins, Aaron Biffar and Andrea Biffar and husband, J.D. Jones; six great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and a myriad of friends.

Graveside service was held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Chico Cemetery.

*Hawkins Funeral Home
1909 9th St. • Bridgeport, Tx*

