



COL (Ret) Earl O. Cullum

Colonel Earl Owen Cullum began his distinguished military career as an ROTC Regimental Commander in 1930, the highest-ranking JROTC Cadet in the Dallas School System. He was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1913, was raised in Dallas, where his family had been established since 1873, and attended North Dallas High School. Colonel Cullum attended North Texas Agricultural College (NTAC) from 1932-33, transferred to Texas A&M, and later received his LLB degree from Blackstone School of Law in Chicago.

Colonel Cullum was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry Reserve in 1937. He entered on active duty in 1941, serving as an instructor at the United States Army Military Police School from 1942-43. He became a Staff Officer to General "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell from 1943-44 and then commanded the 159th Military Police Battalion in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater. At age 30 he was the youngest Military Police Battalion Commander in World War II. Following the war, he served as Security Officer at the United States Army Guided Missile Center (now NASA). After reverting to Reserve status, he was promoted to Colonel in 1975, with less than 20 years total service.

Colonel Cullum's long and distinguished military career ended with his retirement in 1967 after more than 30 years of service. The bravery and devotion to duty of this outstanding soldier and commander has been recognized by numerous decorations and awards to include the Bronze Star Medal, China War Memorial Medal and British Burma Star Medal. Colonel Cullum served more than 800 consecutive days overseas before returning to the United States in late 1945. A graduate of the United States Military Police School, Command and General Staff College and

the FBI Academy, Colonel Cullum served his country for 30 years as an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1947-77.

He also tirelessly dedicated time to his community serving as President of the Rotary Club of Dallas, Dallas County Pioneer Association, and Reserve Officers Association; as National Commander, China-Burma-India Veterans Association; as Texas Department Commander of the Military Order of World Wars; and as Director, Greater Dallas Crime Commission; with lifetime memberships in the Reserve Officers Association, Retired Officers Association and Veterans of Foreign Wars. By his dedication and exemplary action in both peace and war, Colonel Column has brought honor and distinction to himself, The University of Texas at Arlington and the United States Army.

Obituary

CULLUM, COLONEL EARL OWEN, was born in San Antonio on September 14, 1913, and died in Dallas on January 31, 2003. He attended North Dallas High School from 1927–1931, where he was ROTC Colonel from 1929–1930, a football letterman, and the first editor of the *Compass* school newspaper. He attended Texas A&M College and the University of Texas at Arlington but “dropped out” during the Depression years. He later earned an LLB law degree at the Chicago School of Law but never practiced.

He was a member of the Dallas Police Department from 1939–1947 but was away on active duty from 1941–1946. He was Commander of the 159th Military Police Battalion in the China-Burma-India Theater under the direction of Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell. He participated in the Battle of Myitkyina, Burma. He also led the jungle manhunt and personally captured the murderer-deserter, the only American executed in the CBI during World War II.

In 1947, he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and served in Oklahoma, Indiana, and North Texas as a Special Agent. He retired after 30 years with the Bureau and 30 years with the Army Reserve. He was Board Chairman of Oak Lawn United Methodist Church in Dallas and Church Historian for over 30 years. He served as President of the Rotary Club of Dallas; President of the Dallas County Pioneer Association and the Texas Department of the Military Order of World Wars; and was National Commander of the CBI Veterans Association.

He was the son of Earl Wilson Cullum and Ruth Owen and was the great-grandson of Reverend Marcus Hiram Cullum, who founded the Oak Lawn Methodist Church in 1874. He married Louise Hudgins in 1935 and Mary McIntyre Ramsay in 1976. Both wives preceded him in death. A sister, Elizabeth Downing, and a son, Richard Owen Cullum, a West Point graduate, also preceded him in death.

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Kathryn (Kaye) Lee and Edward of Poteet, TX; a son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth H. Cullum and Kathy of Charlotte, NC; a daughter-in-law, Jill Cullum of St. Petersburg, FL; a brother and sister-in-law, Felder W. Cullum and Barbara of Chandler, TX; and a sister and brother-in-law, Nancy J. King and P.D. of Dallas. Eight grandchildren: Kathy Lee Thomas and Timothy of Poteet, TX; Carolyn Lee Hoyt and Steve of Pflugerville, TX; David Owen Lee and Nancy of Mill Creek, WA; Chad Owen Cullum and Kim of Birmingham, AL; Matthew M. Cullum and Cherry of St. Petersburg, FL; Joel G. Cullum and Dayna of Bristol, TN; Lisa Cullum Burkard and Michael of Atlanta, GA; and Douglas N. Cullum of Seattle, WA. He is also survived by 10 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren, as well as other nieces, nephews, and cousins. Also surviving is one very special friend, Margaret Spencer Owen of Dallas, who took very good care of him from the time an auto accident nearly killed him in 1998.

Services will be held at 2:00 PM Tuesday, February 4, 2003, at Restland Memorial Chapel. Interment will follow at Restland Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00–8:00 PM Monday, February 3, 2003, at Restland Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to Oak Lawn United Methodist Church or your favorite charity.

