



COL (Ret) George C. McDowell

Colonel McDowell entered North Texas Agricultural College in 1930 and graduated in 1932. He elected to attend a third year and was designated Company Commander of D Company. In 1933 he won a competitive appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1937 as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery.

McDowell's initial assignment was to Fort Sill in the 18th Field Artillery, a horse-drawn artillery unit. With the mechanization of the army in 1939 he was transferred to the Ordnance Department for duty with the Air Corps. After attending the Aviation Ordnance School at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland and Langley Field, Virginia, he remained as an instructor and participated in the development of bomb handling equipment and specialized vehicles that were used in World War II. With the rapid expansion of the Army and the Air Corps in 1941, he was assigned positions as Ordnance Officer at Bowman Field, Kentucky, and Ireland Task Force, New Orleans Air Base. After two months at Birmingham Air Base, Alabama, as Ordnance Officer, Third Support Command, his unit was ordered to Washington, D.C., redesignated as the 12th Air Support Command of the Western Task Force for the November 1942 invasion of French Morocco under command of General Patton. As Ordnance Officer of the Air Support Command he was involved in logistical planning, including the landing and movement of units and equipment.

McDowell spent two years overseas in North Africa and Italy responsible for the logistics for arms and equipment necessary for both the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Tactical Air Support for the Fifth and Eighth Army Operations. In 1944 McDowell was assigned to the War Department general staff. He assumed responsibility for standardizing and approving

procurement of newly developed small arms, ammunition, and specialized vehicles for the Army and Air Corps units.

He received an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1948 and transferred to the Air Force. He spent the next seven years in the Pentagon and at Wright Patterson AFB. McDowell signed the procurement order and saw installed the first four UNIVAC computers for the Air Force, the Navy, the Bureau of Census, and Wright Patterson AFB. After a year at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, he was assigned from 1958 to 1960 to the Air Force ballistic missile program, first in California and later as project officer and commander of the Thor Missile Force in England. Royal Air Force crews were trained to eventually man this force of 60 missiles with atomic warheads. It proved successful in countering the Russian missile threat.

After subsequent assignment to the Pentagon in the Office of Secretary of Defense's Weapons System Evaluation Group, he left the Air Force and entered the real estate business in Houston. Among his awards and decorations are the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

He formed his own real estate firm in 1961, and his firm (Clark McDowell & Kic, Inc.) has grown to become the foremost residential property management firm in Houston. Colonel McDowell served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Houston Continuing Education School for nine years, teaching property management. He served as the first president of the Houston Chapter of the Military Officers Association of North America and as president of his West Point class.

Colonel McDowell is married to the former Rae Woods. They have two children (Larry and Linda), two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Obituary

Col. George Caldwell McDowell, USAF (Retired)
1913–2017

George Caldwell McDowell, 103, went to be with his Heavenly Father on April 22, 2017, after a rich, full life. He was born on August 27, 1913, in Detroit, Texas, to George Madison McDowell and Betty Joplin McDowell. Growing up in the Dallas area, he graduated from Oak Cliff High School in 1930. He attended North Texas Agricultural College, studying engineering, and was active in ROTC. He earned an appointment to West Point in 1933. After his 1937 graduation, he was assigned to the 18th Field Artillery, a horse-drawn unit. In 1939, he was transferred to the Ordnance Department with the Air Corps. George was assigned to the Air Support Command, where he was involved in logistics and was the youngest officer on General George Patton's staff. George spent two years in North Africa and Italy.

After the war, George earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1948 and transferred to the Air Force. He installed the first UNIVAC computer at Wright-Patterson AFB. After a year at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, he was transferred to the Air Force Ballistic Missile Program, serving as Commander of the Thor Missile installation in England during the Cold War.

George was awarded the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After a third tour at the Pentagon, George retired from the Air Force and entered the property management business in Houston, Texas. He was a co-founder of a successful real estate firm, Clark McDowell. He was later joined by his son Larry and Wojciech Kic. The company is known today as ManagedRentHouses.com, solely owned by Mr. Kic. George taught property management at the University of Houston for nine years and also served as the first President of the Houston Chapter of the Military Officers Association of North America. Actively involved in the West Point Society of Houston, he was the Oldest Grad Speaker for the last 30 years at the annual Founders Day Dinner.

George was introduced to his wife, Rae Woods McDowell, at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, by his West Point friend Lieutenant William Westmoreland, who was the Commanding General in the Vietnam War. They were married for 67 years, from 1939 until her death in 2006. In 1941, son Lawrence Clark McDowell was born at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Daughter Linda Rae Novosad was born while George was in North Africa, and he did not meet her until she was 18 months old.

George is survived by his daughter, Linda Rae Novosad; two grandchildren, Stephanie Gail Novosad Daniel and Andrew Lawrence Novosad; four great-grandchildren, Brittany Lauren Duple (Brian Duple), Preston Cole Daniel, Laci Brook Daniel, and George Ted Novosad; and three great-great-granddaughters, Layla Ryan Koenig, Brylee Ann Duple, and Addisyn Isabella Duple.

Retirement for George and Rae was filled with interesting travels and time with friends, neighbors, and family. He was dedicated to his family, a successful businessman, and a friend to many. He drew his neighbors together into a close community with a weekly happy hour that continues today.

In addition to his son Larry and wife Rae, George was predeceased by his parents; his brothers, David and Norman McDowell; his sister, Mary Virginia Stallings; and his son-in-law, Dr. Ted S. Novosad.

Services will be held Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 5020 West Belfort Blvd., Houston, Texas 77035. Viewing will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the service at 10:00 a.m. and visitation to follow at the church. Burial services will begin at 1:30 p.m. at American Heritage Funeral Home, located at 10710 Veterans Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77038. George will be transported via Civil War caisson to the final graveside service.

Date of Birth: 1913

Date of Death: 2017

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