



COL (Ret) Valin R. Woodward



Colonel Valin R. Woodward graduated from North Texas Agricultural College in 1940 and is honored for his long and illustrious military career. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, Army Air Corps on May 18, 1941, Colonel Woodward's initial two years of service were as flight instructor at various airfields in Texas. In June of 1943, he was assigned to the 45th Bomb Group in

England where he served as Flight Commander, Operations officer, Squadron Commander, and Group Operations Officer. He returned to the United States in July of 1945.

In August of 1945, Colonel Woodward assumed command of the 45th Bomb Group at March Field, California, and served as Commander, or Deputy, until the unit was dissolved in late 1945. For the next five years Colonel Woodward served in various staff assignments of attending service schools. In 1950, he was transferred to the Air Proving Ground Command as Inspector General of the Air Task Group 3.4 and participated in Operation Greenhouse, the 1951 nuclear tests in the Pacific. On his return, he was assigned to the Special Weapons Command, Kirkland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

In August 1955, he entered the Air Command and Staff College. Following graduation, he was appointed Chief, Fire Control and Weapons Branch, Directorate of Research and Development, Headquarters USAF, Washington, D.C. In July 1958, he was assigned as Deputy Assistant DCS/Development for Foreign Developments, served in this capacity until January 1961.

From July 1961 to September 1962, Colonel Woodward served with the Air Section Military Advisory Group Germany. He was Chief of the Operations and Plans Branch. In December 1963, Colonel Woodward was selected to be Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. He served in this capacity until his retirement in March 1968.

Subsequent to his retirement, Colonel Woodward joined the Hughes Aircraft Company. In September 1968 he became Manager of Hughes Aircraft International Service Company, Germany, the second largest Hughes International Operation in the world. In 1972, he and his wife established their own business in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Among Colonel Woodward's many awards and accomplishments are his establishing two speed records in August 1946 in the P-80 jet fighter aircraft, and as Aircraft Commander of one of the few live nuclear test drops in the United States. He was also instrumental in planning an implementation of the F-104G aircraft and support system for both the United States and German Air Force.

His decorations include the Legion of Merit, the **Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters**, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the French Croix de Guerre with Star, various campaign medals, and Command Pilot and Glider Pilot ratings.

Obituary

WOODWARD — Valin Ridge (Woody) Woodward Jr., COL (RET.), a long-time resident of Albuquerque, died at home on Thursday, September 10, 2009. He was 89.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine; stepchildren David Whittier and wife Maya of Vancouver, B.C., Darren Whittier and wife Theresa of Red Deer, Alberta, Joanne Whittier of Victoria, B.C., and Douglas Whittier of Victoria, B.C.; step-grandchildren Pico, Jessica, Ashley, Taro, and Shoji; four step-great-grandchildren; brothers Morgan Woodward of Hollywood, CA, Dr. Lewis

Woodward and wife Shirley of Modesto, CA, and Lee Woodward and wife Amelia of Tulsa, OK; sister-in-law Louise Woodward of New Braunfels, TX; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Woody was preceded in death by his first wife, Meg, and his brother, Dr. Stanley Woodward.

Woody was born in Fort Worth, TX, and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington. His father, Dr. Valin Ridge Woodward Sr., expected him to continue the family tradition and become a medical doctor like his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather before him. Woody had other ideas, however. His passion was flying, and he followed his heart, joined the Army Air Corps, and began his very distinguished career as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

During his 28 years of military service, he flew gliders, fighters, bombers, and jets. He is known for landing the first single-engine jet at Kirtland Air Force Base and for setting cross-country speed records as a test pilot after having fought in WWII flying bombers. His last assignment before retiring in 1968 was Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force for Research, Development, and Space. This led to many years of diplomatic experience in Washington, D.C., and Europe.

After retiring from the Air Force as a full colonel, he was hired as Manager of Hughes Aircraft International in Germany, where he also served on the U.S. Ambassador's Business Advisory Group and served three terms as President of the American Businessmen's Club, Bonn, Germany.

When Woody and Meg moved back to Albuquerque, they established their own business, which they operated for twenty-six years until Meg's death in 1996. As a businessman in Albuquerque, Woody became involved as a leader in many organizations, including the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Albuquerque Chapter Air Force Association, President 1978–86; the Board of Directors of the Better Business Bureau of New Mexico, 1982–1997; the Governor's Business Advisory Council, 1991; the Rotary Club of Albuquerque, member since 1974 and President in 1980; fundraiser for the Lobo Club for 30 years; and member of Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church for more than 30 years.

His many awards include the AFA National Medal of Merit (1984), M.A.C. Distinguished Citizen's Award (1984), induction into the Military Hall of Honor of the University of Texas at Arlington (1987), Rotary Living Legend (1990), the Steve Schiff Award (1999–2000) by the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, and designation as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Texas at Arlington (1999).

During his long life, Woody established lasting friendships wherever he went, was known for his quirky sense of humor, and was admired for his leadership qualities. He leaves behind, for all who knew and loved him, many wonderful memories.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, September 18, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. Interment will take place at Santa Fe National Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Friends may visit on Thursday evening, September 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at French ~ Wyoming Chapel, 7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/valin-woodward-obituary?pid=178315873>