

Plume, Henry Horace 'Hank' | 1921-2017

Published Saturday, September 2, 2017



Henry Plume

Henry Horace "Hank" Plume, 96, died Monday, Aug. 28, 2017. Service is 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5, at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth followed by a reception at the church. Burial is at 1:15 p.m. later that day at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Visitation is 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 4, at Thompson's Harveson and Cole, 702 8th Ave., in Fort Worth.

"Hank," as he was known to his friends, was a Christian, and also a man of great vision, confidence and integrity. Everyone that met Hank was struck by his self-possession and immediately knew they were in the presence of someone special. He was thoughtful, thought-provoking, wise and encouraging, making everyone feel he had only their best interest at heart. Hank's life may be characterized by his love for God; his love of his wife; his devotion to his family; his many achievements; his generosity; his bravery; and his service.

Hank was born April 14, 1921, in Sweet Home, where he was educated in a four-room schoolhouse. After his family moved to Yoakum, he graduated from Yoakum High School, attended the University of Texas and Jamestown College in Jamestown, N.D. Hank married the love of his life, Kay, in 1948. He always said when they married they "left on their honeymoon and never came back."

Hank felt the call of his country during World War II and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He became a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 390th Bomb Group, U.S. 8th Air Force, flying from Framlingham Airfield, England. After completing his 15th mission, but before arriving safely back in England, he became an elite member of the Caterpillar Club – definitely not a "club" one would choose to join. Hank's aircraft was shot down over German enemy territory requiring him to bail out at 28,000 feet. He was subsequently captured and became a prisoner of war housed at Stalag Luft I on the Baltic Sea. Hank was awarded the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the POW Medal and the European Theater of Operations Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star. He remained active in the United States Air Force Reserve, achieving the rank of Captain. Hank held countless church leadership positions, which included charring committees, board membership and teaching. Not only did he faithfully serve his church, he also devoted much time to his community – extending this even to the far reaches of Hawaii. He was vice president for Development of Hawaii Baptist Academy (HBA) in Honolulu and was state chairman of HBA Mainland Advisory Council.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Body and the Fort Worth Airpower Council; he was director and past president of the 390th Bomb Group Veterans Association and director of its Museum Foundation in Tucson, Ariz. Hank also was an executive member of the Wise County Horse Committee.

Hank considered his life to have been richly blessed by his life-mate Kay; his children and their spouses; his grandchildren; his parents and siblings; and his many friends. Memorial donations may be made to Hawaii Baptist Academy, 420 Wyllie St., Honolulu, HI 96817.