

James Eldon Howard

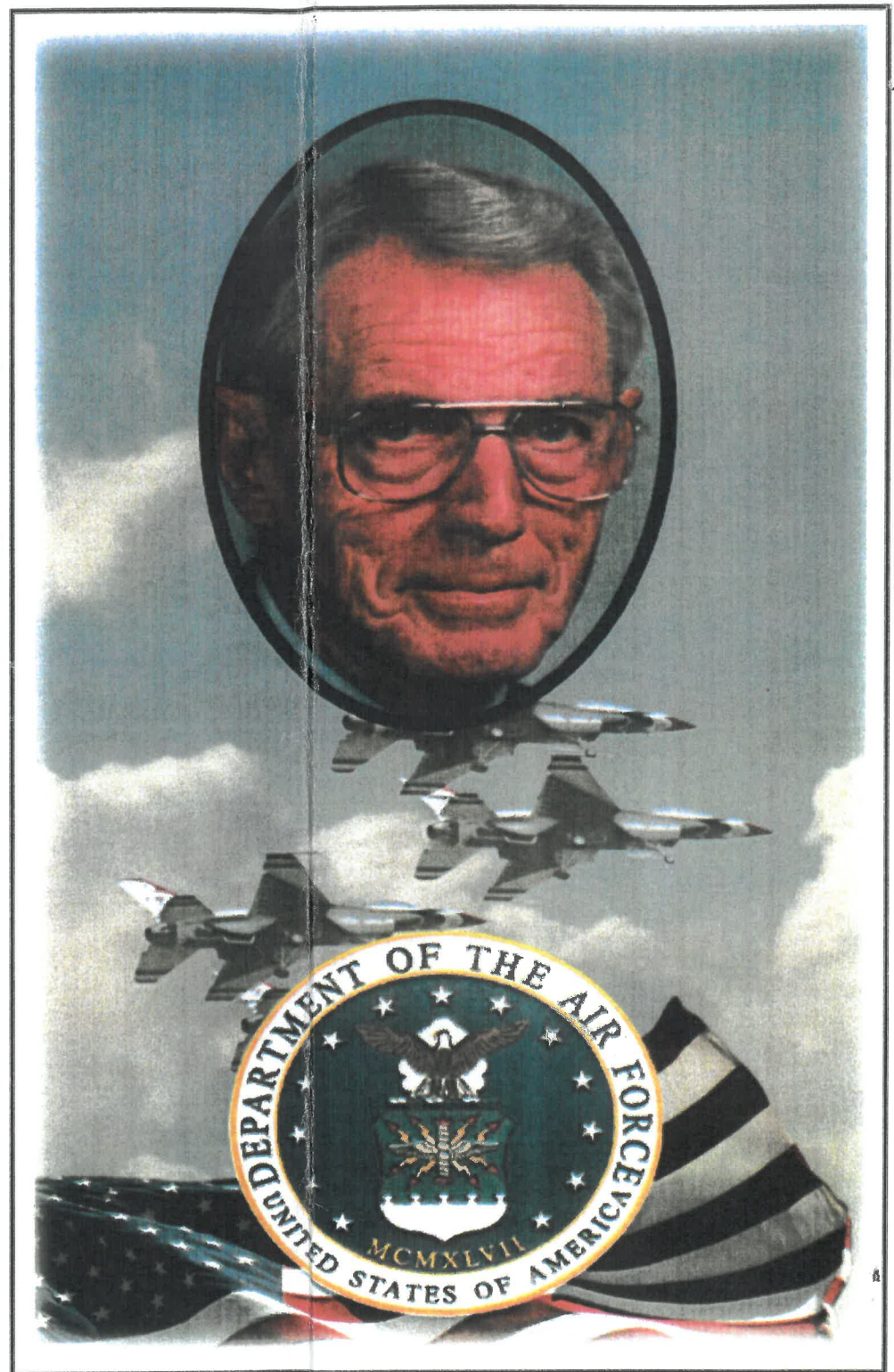
James Eldon Howard was born December 26, 1923 near Farragut, Iowa, the son of Lloyd L. and Ethel M. (Ringer) Howard. He passed away on Thursday afternoon, December 13, 2012 at Elm Heights Care Center in Shenandoah at the age of 88 years, 11 months and 17 days.

James grew up attending grade school at Fisher Center Country School and graduated from Farragut High School in 1941. Following high school he attended Lincoln Aeronautical School and took a sheet metal course, then he was employed at Beech Aircraft in Wichita, Kansas. After six months, he enlisted in the Air Force and took pilot training at Wichita and Will Rogers Field in Oklahoma City to become a Liaison Pilot. After his training, he was sent to Africa for one year and then on to Italy for another 15 months. He returned to the states on July 4, 1945 and enrolled in Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma to get his commercial and flight instructor ratings. On June 23, 1946 he married Gladys Ackerberg in Essex, Iowa. This union was blessed with two sons, Dennis Leon and Stephen Lynn.

His first post war employment was a flight instructor at Grant City, Missouri, and after three months, was offered a job as flight instructor at Shenandoah Municipal Airport giving flight instructions to ex veterans on the GI bill. When things slowed down after a couple years, Jim worked for Tyler Brothers Bottling Company, Jay Drug and Burton Motor Company and was one of two of the first Shenandoah school bus drivers. In June 1951, he and his wife started their own business, Howard Sporting Goods. After two years at 719 W. Sheridan, they moved their store to 506 W. Sheridan. After seven years at this location, they bought McCloy Clothing Store and moved to the new location at 521 W. Sheridan in 1960. After buying McCloy's, they closed out their hunting and fishing equipment and concentrated on men's clothing and athletic equipment. Jim called on schools, selling athletic equipment a day or two a week. Gladys was the bookkeeper and was in complete charge of the men's clothing department. After a year or so they rented the ex Tiny Tot store building to the east, made a connecting opening between the two and displayed sporting goods in the new annex. In 1975, they bought the building at 600 W. Sheridan that was the McClellan Store and fully remodeled it. In 1981, they bought out Goldberg Clothing, and again made an opening connecting the two buildings, expanding their business. About this time, they sold their business to their son, Dennis and his wife Darlene and her brother Dale Sandquist and his wife, Pam.

Jim and Gladys helped out for a year or two before moving fulltime to Arizona for Gladys' health concerns. After 18 years in Arizona they moved back to Shenandoah to be close to family and friends. Jim liked golf, gardening, working with tools, aviation and enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren participate in sports. He was a member of the Shenandoah United Methodist Church and American Legion Post #88 in Shenandoah.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Wayne and his wife, Mary. Survivors include his wife, Gladys of Shenandoah, Iowa; his children, Dennis Howard and his wife Darlene of Shenandoah, Iowa, Stephen Howard and his wife Cheryl of Omaha, Nebraska; five grandchildren, Doug Howard and his wife Laura of Ankeny, Iowa, Dawn Lauman and her husband Chris of Pella, Iowa, Derek Howard of Shenandoah, Iowa, Michael Howard of Omaha, Nebraska, Kevin Howard of Omaha, Nebraska; six great grandchildren, Chase, Max, Tate and Sam Lauman, Hannah and Ashley Howard; along with many other relatives and friends.



High Flight

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds,-and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of-wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air....
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark nor ever eagle flew-
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high un-trespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

Everyone is invited back to the United Methodist Church following the committal service for lunch and a time of fellowship with the family.

In Loving Memory

James Eldon Howard

Born

December 26, 1923 Farragut, Iowa

Entered Into Rest

December 13, 2012 Shenandoah, Iowa

Age

88 Years 11 Months 17 Days

Celebration of Life Held

*10:30 A.M. Monday, December 17, 2012
United Methodist Church Shenandoah, Iowa*

Words of Comfort

*Pastor Ed Powers
United Methodist Church*

Music

Terry Stafford, Accompanist

Musical Selections

*"Save A Place For Me"
"I Will Rise"
"The Lord's Prayer"*

Casket Bearers

*Douglas Howard Michael Howard Kevin Howard
Derek Howard Tony Howard Greg Howard*

Honorary Casket Bearers

*Richard Gruber Kenny Mathis Merlin McAllister Harold Phipps
LeRoy Spargur James Sligar Fred Bryson*

Memory Register

Mary Lightfoot Maureen Martin

Ushers

Chuck Brooks Dale Sandquist

Final Resting Place

*Rose Hill Cemetery
Shenandoah, Iowa*

Military Honors

American Legion Post #88

*Arrangements By
KIRSCH FUNERAL CHAPEL
Shenandoah, Iowa
www.kirschfuneral.com*