



Thomas John Purtil

May 30, 1926 - July 22, 2016

Thomas John Purtil, USAF Ret., of Kalkaska, passed away on July 22, 2016. Colonel Purtil, retired after 27 years of distinguished service and leadership as the Base Commander at Phelps Collins Air National Guard Base in Alpena, Michigan.

He came to Michigan's Department of Military Affairs with a solid foundation in military life and in the discipline and dedication which characterized the professional demeanor of career servicemen.

A trained fighter pilot, Thomas was ready to contribute the expertise and experience he gained during tours of duty in Korea and England. He served as fighter pilot, reconnaissance pilot, operations officer, squadron commander, group commander, and State Administrator Officer.

Thomas Purtil's quality of service and his ability and willingness to accept responsibility were reflected in his promotions from First Lieutenant to Captain, to Major, to Lieutenant Colonel and to Colonel. Colonel Purtil was appointed Base Commander, Phelps Collins ANG Base, Alpena, Michigan. During his command the Base underwent many changes and improvements. His foresight, planning and superb managerial skill are chiefly responsible for numerous improvements to the recreational and educational facilities and the living quarters. In addition, the Operations Line Buildings, TAC airlift drop zone, small arms range, and the Grayling Air/Ground Range were remodeled. Thomas enjoyed playing golf in his free time.

He is survived by his wife, Laura; sister, Mabelle; and several nieces and

nephews.

Services were held privately per the family's wishes. Arrangements entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

In memory of Tom, donations can be made to the AuSable Valley Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 384, Grayling, MI 49738

Tribute Wall

MP

“ *Melanie Pauch lit a candle in memory of Thomas John Purtill*



Melanie Pauch - August 09, 2016 at 10:54 AM

AJ

“ *Al & Mary Jordan lit a candle in memory of Thomas John Purtill*



Al & Mary Jordan - August 09, 2016 at 07:23 AM