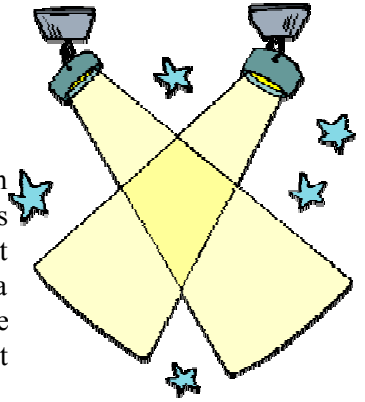


# Member Spotlight

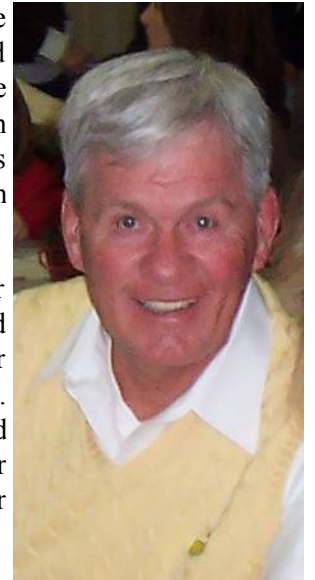
Charlie Connell

It all began for this aviator when the stork dropped him off at Grady Hospital in Atlanta on September 1, 1940. He was the firstborn of Charles and Louise Connell and, along with his younger sister, Ludie, would spend his childhood in and around the Atlanta area, primarily at Little Five Points. Charlie graduated from Bass High School in 1959, where he was a standout football player, playing for Coach Bill Yost, the inspiration for the book and movie "Remember the Titans". Charlie still gets together regularly with former classmates whether it be to participate in golf matches in the mountains or just to relive memories of yesteryear.



After graduating from high school, his yearn for adventure led him to the West Coast where he would spend about a year in California picking up odd jobs and enjoying life. The glamour and glitz of the carefree life soon wore off, however, and reality brought him back to Georgia. He would continue his education by attending a technical school, where he obtained a degree in electronics. His job with a bowling company actually reassigned him to the CSRA, which is where he met a pretty blonde, Jackie, who would become his bride and the mother of children Greg & Karyn.

Subject to the bowling company's going defunct (no fault of his, mind you!), he went to work for Olin Corporation for a short time prior to going into business for himself. In the interim he had established a friendship with another member of our club - Frank Christian - who played a major role in influencing Charlie's life. Frank was in the photography business as well as being a pilot. Through Frank's encouragement, Charlie opened up a Color Lab business, where he would receive a comfortable living for approximately 20 years. Fortunately, just prior to newer technology, digitizing photography, Charlie was able to go into HVAC/Appliance Repair business with son Greg.



The many hours spent working in the Color Lab business had taken a toll on family life, however, and a divorce led to bachelor life for a few years before meeting and acquiring current wife, Sheila, and daughter Kimberly. Between the couple they are proud grandparents of Makenzie, Tanner, Brandon, Emily, Justin, Kayla and Dylan. In the early 90s (after 30-40 years) Charlie and sister Ludie discovered another brother in the family, Marshall. This led to a family reunion where they now have a close bond with Marshall and wife Terry.

Charlie's interest in aviation stems from his childhood. However, his acquaintance/friendship with Al Patton added fuel to the fire. He and little son Greg would spend many hours in Patton's backyard working on homebuilts. Al would go on to instruct both Charlie and Greg in obtaining their pilots' licenses. Charlie was actually one of EAA172's initial members and has been the donor of many resources to the club - from monetary to "hard" labor. His experience in building airplanes made him instrumental in building the Thorp T-18 club airplane in the early 70's. He and Al Patton were also 50/50 partners and built the Pitts S-1C during that time. He also did a lot of work helping Al build his Rose Parakeet and in helping many other members, including Moe Waldrop and Ben Covington, with their airplane projects.

His pilot rating is: private pilot, single engine, land. He currently flies an RV8A, which he built. He has flown numerous airplanes (including the B17) and with his passion for flight would attempt to fly any for which he had the opportunity, with first choice probably being the P40!

Charlie enjoys being an EAA172 member and listening to war stories from the elder aviators. But, his proudest aviation accomplishments, bar none, would be his son Greg's achievements in that arena, whether it's from watching him perform in air shows, observing his instrument flying skills or going on trips with him in his RV-10.

When not enjoying aviation events, Charlie is diversified in his activities - playing golf with good friends at Mt. Vintage or espousing his passionate conservative views in efforts to "take our country back"!



## Phil Colman



**Lt. Col. Philip Eddy Colman**

**U.S. Army Air Force (Retired)  
December 1, 1921 – April 28, 2011**



Augusta, GA – Lt. Col. Philip E. Colman, 89, entered into rest Thursday, April 28, 2011. Graveside services were held Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. at Westover Memorial Park with Chaplain Myron Ivey officiating. Pallbearers were Mike Grover, Roy Bryan, Ronnie Nash, Carl Brooks, Perry Willard and Joe Patrick. Honorary pallbearers were Joe Miles, Bob Rhodes, Al Patton, Tommy Edwards, Charlie Connell, Dennis Allen, and Tony Mulherin. Phil Colman was honored by poignant readings delivered by Judge Dudley Bowen and a “Missing Man Formation” fly-over by members of EAA 172. The family received friends following the service at the graveside.

Lt. Col. Colman is survived by his wife of 65 years, Dorothy Carpenter. He was preceded in death by his parents, Julius Harry Colman and Mary Lucille Eddy; his brothers, Joseph Chester Colman, Frank Ward Colman, and William Gilmore Colman.

Lt. Col. Colman was born in Roanoke, VA in 1921 and graduated from Jefferson Senior High School in 1941. The following year he joined the US Army Air Corps and was accepted into aviation training. After completing basic flight training at Bush Field, Augusta, Georgia, Mr. Colman graduated as a “Flying Sergeant” at Spence Field in Moultrie, GA in 1942. He served as a fighter pilot in WW2 and the Korean War. During this time, Lt. Col. Colman shot down 10 enemy planes-six Japanese planes while flying with the Chinese-American Composite Wing and four Russian-made MIGS in the Korean War as a member of the Georgia Air National Guard. His 10 kills made him one of the few “double Aces” among American pilots who fought in two wars. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with a command pilot rating. He earned numerous decorations for his services, including the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal.

As a civilian in Augusta, Mr. Colman was active in business, community affairs, and aviation. He was a charter member of Chapter 172 of the Experimental Aircraft Association, lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, member of the American Fighter Aces Association and the Western North Carolina Air Museum. The Augusta, GA Chapter of the Air Force Association is named in his honor. In 1995, he was awarded Aviator of the Year at the Boshear’s Fly-In. Lt. Col. Colman was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame in 2002. He was owner of Colman’s Volkswagen from 1959 - 1974.

He is survived by a daughter, Candace Rossignol and husband Bill; two sons, James Robert Colman and wife Gwen, Philip E. Colman II and wife Linda; two granddaughters, Amy and Kelly; one grandson, Kyle; and two great-grandchildren.

The family would like to express a special thank you to Phil’s caregivers, Teresa Tuten and nurse Becky McBeath.

If so desired, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one’s choice.

Thomas Poteet & Son Funeral Directors, 214 Davis Rd., Augusta, GA 30907 (706) 364-8484. Please sign the guestbook at [www.thomaspoteet.com](http://www.thomaspoteet.com)

## **Bob Kitchens**

*November 6, 1930 – April 12, 2011*

Mr. Robert M. "Bob" Kitchens, age 80, of Milner, passed away on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at Spalding Regional Medical Center.

Mr. Kitchens was born on Nov. 6, 1930 in Augusta, Ga. to the late Mervin Kitchens and the late Josie Bargeron Kitchens. He was a Veteran of the United States Air Force, having served as a pilot. Mr. Kitchens was a retired pilot with Eastern Airlines with 35 years of service. He loved to fly his airplanes, ride his motorcycle with his wife and enjoyed playing golf. He had attended the Masters Tournament for the past 60 years. Mr. and Mrs. Kitchens worked with the Young Eagles Program, and was always willing to share their love of flying with anyone that shared their interest in flying. He was a devoted and loving family man. He was a member of the Candler Field Museum in Williamson, Ga., AOPA, EAA, Antique Automobile Club, Antique Airplane Association, and the A Model Club. Mr. Kitchens was a pilot all of his life, having his first solo flight at the age of 16. He went on to become a flight instructor and then flew cargo airplanes to accumulate enough hours to fly with a commercial airline. In his later years, he enjoyed spending time on the family farm and being at home with Barbara, Scooter and Daisy, and anyone that would fly by to visit. Mr. Kitchens loved his God, family and Country.

Mr. Kitchens is survived by his wife, Barbara Kitchens; sons and daughters-in-law, Col. Greg Kitchens and his wife, Allston of Charleston, S.C. Captain Kurt Kitchens and his wife, Kathy of Mooresville, N.C.; daughters and sons-in-law, Tracy and David Simmons of Dobson, N.C.; Theresa and Kevin Mitchell of Griffin; grandchildren, Elizabeth Kitchens, Ellen Kitchens, Kaylee Kitchens, Kendra Kitchens, Peyton Simmons, Devin Simmons, Ryan Simmons, Sheldon Simmons, Sarah Forehand, Hope Mitchell, Jordan Mitchell, Jesse Mitchell and Andy Mitchell; brother, Ken Kitchens of Franklin, Tennessee; niece, Becky Kitchens; nephew, Kendall Kitchens.

A funeral service for Mr. Bob Kitchens was conducted Friday, April 15, 2011 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Conner-Westbury Funeral Home. Dr. Bob Schmutzler officiated. Interment followed in Westwood Gardens. Friends visited the family on Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 West McIntosh Road, Griffin, was in charge of the arrangements. [www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com](http://www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com).