



## Lt.Col. Wesley "Tom" Kouba

December 22, 1924 - March 31, 2016

Services for Lt. Col. Wesley "Tom" Kouba, USAF Ret., 91, Of Gilmer will be held Sunday April 3, 2016 at Enon Baptist Church with Bro. Ray Thompson officiating. The Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Wesley Thomas (Tom) Kouba was born December 22, 1924, on a farm near Rosser, Texas, and died on March 31, 2016 in Frisco, Texas, after a brief illness. He was 91.

Tom was the elder of two children of Wesley Lee Kouba and wife, Iva (nee Matlock). Named Wesley Thomas, in honor of his father and maternal grandfather (Thomas Jonathan Matlock, a Baptist minister), he was always called "Tom." His parents and younger sister, Francis Jenkins, preceded him in death.

Tom grew up on a cattle ranch near Ennis, TX and worked on a cotton farm as a teenager, becoming a labor foreman at the age of 14. He graduated from Scurry-Rosser High School at the age of 16. Originally left-handed, he learned to write with his right hand at the age of 6, and was ambidextrous thereafter.

Tom moved to Dallas after high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army soon after his eighteenth birthday, earning a perfect score on the

military entrance exam. His first assignment was as a typist for the base commander, but Tom soon volunteered for pilot training and became a bomber pilot for the U.S. Army Air Corps. He survived many missions throughout World War II and the Korean conflict, flew for the Strategic Air Command during the Cold War, and retired after 22 years as a Lieutenant Colonel. Tom loved to fly, and maintained a private pilot's license for many years.

After completing his military service, Tom obtained a Master of Science degree in Industrial Technology from Texas A&M in Commerce, TX in 1967. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics during his years in the Air Force, with credits from several universities across the country. Tom was an instructor of electronics and electricity at Kilgore College for 15 years, retiring in 1983.

A Master Electrician and talented carpenter, Tom designed and built his farm home, doing most of the work himself. He also helped build his sister's home, and assisted in the design and construction of the Upshur County Farm Bureau office building in Gilmer. Tom was also a talented auto mechanic and enjoyed working on the restoration of his Model T Ford. He made the wheel spokes himself, and enjoyed other woodworking projects; Tom was also a talented artist who created beautiful gifts for family members and friends.

Tom was a Director and past President of the Upshur County Farm Bureau, a 32nd degree Mason, a Deacon at the Enon Baptist Church, and President of the Enon Community Center. He raised Santa Gertrudis cattle on his farm near Gilmer and enjoyed golfing and playing canasta at the Enon Community Center. He also enjoyed fishing, swimming, and boating.

Tom married the love of his life, Donna Louise Smith, in Dallas, Texas, on January 10, 1948 and was a devoted husband and father. Tom and Donna celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2008. Donna preceded Tom in death on April 18, 2009. They are survived by their son, Wesley Thomas Kouba II (Elaine Cosette Stewart); two grandchildren, Karen Elaine Davis (Matthew Cameron Davis) and Stewart Thomas Kouba; and one great-granddaughter, Caroline Grace Davis.

All who knew Tom will miss him, but we are celebrating his 91 years of service to God, country and family. He has finished the race; may his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace, until we meet again.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tom's memory to the Enon Community Center.

# Cemetery Details

**Grice**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

APR 3. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Enon Baptist Church  
3063 FM 556  
Gilmer, TX 75644

### Service

APR 3. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Enon Baptist Church  
3063 FM 556  
Gilmer, TX 75644

# Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Lt.Col. Wesley "Tom" Kouba*



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**McWhorter Funeral Home** - April 02, 2016 at 11:50 AM

RA

“ *Although I knew Donna a long time before I knew Tom, I did finally meet Tom. He came into where I worked at least once a month and he would sometimes speak to me in German. I eventually learned a few comebacks in German, which always made him smile. I will miss his smile and his good-nature, but at lease he's reunited with Donna; who I'm sure is talking his ear off, telling him all about what he's been missing in Heaven all these years.*

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**Rosalyn Alsobrook** - April 08, 2016 at 07:44 PM



“ 36 files added to the album Life Tributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - April 02, 2016 at 11:42 AM



“ Red, White & Blue Standing Wreath was purchased for the family of Lt.Col. Wesley "Tom" Kouba.



April 01, 2016 at 11:09 PM



“ David/Sandy Echols, Jacob/Sandra Echols, Chris/Amber Parker purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Lt.Col. Wesley "Tom" Kouba.



David/Sandy Echols, Jacob/Sandra Echols, Chris/Amber Parker - April 01, 2016 at 04:34 PM