

GARDNER, EDWARD

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GARDNER, Edward Darrell, passed from this world peacefully on August 20, 2014. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 67 years, Peggy Rose Braden Gardner; three children and their spouses, Edward "Buddy" and Janice Gardner, Phil and Cheryl Gardner and Patsy and Dave Pelland; nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Henry Etta Gardner Johnson, of Stamping Ground, Ky. Edward was born in Stamping Ground, Ky. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a pilot and navigator during WWII. He successfully crash landed, field repaired, and safely returned his aircraft. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Oak Leaf Cluster. He spent his career with Reynolds Metals, where he served as the head of Research and Development, an ideal position for a consummate tinkerer and inventor. With Reynolds, he built one of the first hover crafts in the United States, prompting local papers to report on possible UFO sightings. He was a leader in his field and taught a course on string analysis at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He traveled to Russia and China before the fall of the Iron Curtain. He held multiple patents regarding metallurgy and adhesives. Edward was active in his community. He used his role in R&D at Reynolds to test aluminum piping on an ice rink he built and donated to Southampton Recreation Association. It was the first ice rink south of the river in Richmond and is still in use today. He collected donations to build the first ball field at Southampton Elementary School and co-founded the Huguenot Little League. He was a member of the 2300 Club in Church Hill and a member of Willow Oaks Country Club, where he served a term as president. He was an avid golfer. To his grandchildren and great-grandchildren "Pa" was a constant tinkerer, always one step ahead of the latest gadgets, and a lover of playful pranks and practical jokes. A celebration of his life will be held 4 p.m. Saturday, August 23, at Bon Air Baptist Church, 2531 Buford Rd. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Huguenot Little League, P.O. Box 3465, Richmond, Va. 23235 and/or Bon Air Baptist Endowment, 2531 Buford Rd., Richmond, Va. 23235.

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