

In Memory of

James A. Grumman Sr.

December 20, 1917 - October 21, 2017

James A. Grumman, 99, died peacefully on Saturday, October 21, 2017. Born December 20, 1917 in Binghamton, New York to the late Rev. George T Gruman and Gertrude Marie Rosenkrans Gruman, he grew up in Scotch Plains, New Jersey; Brooklyn, New York; and Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. After high school he worked in the Williamsburg Savings Bank until he began aeronautics training at the Stewart School of Technology in New York City where he graduated in 1938.



In 1940 he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, trained as a pilot and was stationed in many bases including North Carolina, Florida and Texas. He was in the first wartime graduating class from Randolph Field, Corsicana, Texas. As a pilot based in California, he flew Gen. Patton on reconnaissance flights in a two-seater training plane. During the time he was stationed at Abilene, Texas, he met Lucille Hay, then air traffic controller for Abilene Municipal Airport, marrying her in 1943. When the U.S. entered World War II, Lt. Col. Grumman was assigned to the combined air force base in Deanthorpe Air Base, Scotland, where he served as Wing and Division Lead Pilot and Squadron Leader for the 8th Air Force bombing missions in B-17s over Germany. After 30 missions he returned to the United States and served in the U.S. Army Reserves until 1962, retiring as Lt. Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve. He was awarded the Pre-WWII Service Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, European Theater Ribbon with 5 Battle Stars, the American Defense Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service.

After the war he and his wife Lucy and their young children moved to Wichita, Kansas where he was an engineer with the Gas Service Company. Within that company he moved on to become Division Superintendent in Independence, Missouri, and later Division Manager where he retired in 1980. During those years in Independence, he was a member and president of the Rotary Club, served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA, United Funds Agency, Jackson County Builders and Developers Association, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and Associated Industries of Missouri. He served on the Base Council for Richards-Gebaur Air Base Community Council as chairman and was the Chairman of the Board for the Independence Savings and Loan Association for many years.

After many years in Independence, Missouri, he and his wife moved to Tyler, Texas and later to Victoria where he was a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church, active in the Colony Creek Country Club, and attended the Victoria Symphony.

He was married to the late Lucille Hay Grumman for 62 years, they raised 2 children and put them through college. Among Mr. Grumman's greatest pleasures were a love of music and dancing and a lifetime project of perfecting his golf game, which became a frustration to all who partnered with him on the links.

Mr. Grumman is predeceased by his parents, a sister Dorothy Grumman Kinkel, and a brother Robert T. Grumman.

He is survived by his son, Dr. James A. Grumman Jr. and wife Janice of Victoria, daughter, Margaret Grumman Shields and husband Wade of New Orleans; grandchildren, Lt. Daniel Grumman and wife Jennifer of Virginia Beach, VA;, Jessica Grumman Frankenberger and husband Richard of Corpus Christi, TX; Katherine Grumman & Chris Fleury of Austin, TX; Beth Buzzello and husband Joe of Scottsdale, AR; and great grandchildren, Matthew and Aiden Grumman and Alyssa Buzzello.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 18th at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Victoria. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Eighth Air Force Museum, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402, or to St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at colonialfuneralhomevictoria.com