



Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.

April 1, 1922 - February 19, 2012

Colonel H.G. "Hank" Tillman, USAF, Retired Born April 1, 1922 in Brooklyn, MD the son of the late Herman G. and Hortense A. Dahle Tillman, died February 19, 2012 peacefully at his home on Kent Island. He was 89.

Recognized as one of Maryland's true heroes, Col. "Hank" Tillman flew combat missions in two wars. At the age of 21 he was a B-17 pilot in the Army Air Corps flying missions over Europe, and served as General Jimmy Doolittle's wing man on the raid over Rome. On one mission, though wounded and at the controls of heavily damaged plane, Hank managed to land safely and saved his crew. General Doolittle personally awarded Hank the Purple Heart. General Twining awarded him his first of three Distinguished Flying Cross.

After flying a substantial number of missions above and beyond the number required for rotation back to the States, Hank was sent to Texas as a flight instructor. At the conclusion of World War II, Hank decided to remain in the service, and ferried planes to Korea during the Korean Conflict.

Making an unbelievable and unusual transition from multiengine bombers, Hank qualified as a jet pilot, and flew 100 missions in Mach II F-4 Phantoms in Vietnam. While there, he volunteered to fly through a valley for the purpose of drawing fire from surface to air missiles hidden there so that a spotter plane

could locate their position and have them neutralized. For his heroism, Col. Tillman was awarded the Silver Star by General William W. Momyer.

Hank held various base commands prior to his retirement as a Full Colonel, and is one of our most highly decorated veterans. As such, he is frequently asked to speak by veterans organizations, and has even addressed the White House staff. He and his wife Elizabeth have twice been invited guests to the Court of Queen Elizabeth and Parliament. Hank has been honored by the State of Maryland, the Governor, the House of Delegates, and has served on Senator Mikulski's Committee for Nominations to the Service Academies.

During his service in three wars and thereafter as a U.S. military representative to NATO Forces in Europe, totaling 31 years of service to his country, Colonel Tillman accumulated numerous citations for heroism and other commendable acts which include in addition to his Silver Star and Purple Heart, 2 Legions of Merit, 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 16 Air Medals, a Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnamese Honor Medal, 1st Class, 2 Meritorious Service Medals, a Commendation Medal, the Hellenic Commemorative Medal and various campaign and non-combat medals; and was also recognized with a Walter Anneberg Ambassador Award in 1970. Hank married his high school sweetheart Elizabeth Anne (who also served for a time during World War II in the U.S. Coast Guard SPARS) in uniform June 25, 1944. She predeceased him on November 2, 1998 after 54 years of marriage. They spend many years traveling foreign countries within the service for over 30 years. They had a good life and were involved in wonderful experiences throughout their careers. They would retire to Chester, MD where Col. Tillman remained an active member of the community and an advocate for veterans. Hank was a member of the Masons – Warren Lodge #51, VFW Post 7464 and the American Legion 278. He was also a member of the Living Waters Lutheran Church in Stevensville, and the St. John's Lutheran Church in Linthicum Heights, MD.

He is also the co-founder of Tillman Tool Company, which was established in Baltimore in the 1980s, a company currently owned by his son in Bel Air, MD.

Col. Tillman is survived by two daughters, Paula Gately Tillman-Hoffberger of Baltimore, MD and Terri L. Tillman of Chester, MD; a son, Bruce D. Tillman of Bel Air, MD; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Austin Dopman and K. Dale Tillman.

A funeral service will be held on 11:00 am on Thursday, February 23 at the Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. in Chester, where friends may call on Wednesday, February 22 from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm.

Interment will be held at the Old Post Chapel at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on Monday, June 18, 2012 at 11:00 am. Friends wishing to attend are requested to arrive at the Chapel before 10:45 am.

Family requests that memorial contributions be made to Hospice of Queen Anne's, Inc 255 Comet Drive Centreville, MD 21617.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 22. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 643-2226
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Visitation

FEB 22. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 643-2226
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Service

FEB **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 643-2226
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Elizabeth Faber Ewell lit a candle in memory of Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.*



Elizabeth Faber Ewell - March 06, 2012 at 03:53 PM



“ *Deepest sympathy to the family of Hank Tillman. My thoughts & prayers are with you.*

Nina White

Nina White - February 22, 2012 at 01:56 PM

NG

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Nancy Guisepppe - February 22, 2012 at 11:39 AM

TT

Great of you dear Nancy to submit these wonderful photos. Your love and care for all is always uplifting and refreshing. Love Terri

TERRI TILLMAN - May 22, 2014 at 10:07 AM

NG

“ Nancy Guisepppe lit a candle in memory of Col. Herman"Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.



Nancy Guisepppe - February 22, 2012 at 11:36 AM

TB

“ Tina Buttner lit a candle in memory of Col. Herman"Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.




Tina Buttner - February 22, 2012 at 07:28 AM

MS

“ Mike & Donna Shay lit a candle in memory of Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.



Mike & Donna Shay - February 22, 2012 at 06:14 AM

 Roland Dell

“ Roland Dell lit a candle in memory of Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.



Roland Dell - February 21, 2012 at 11:03 PM

MS

“ Martin Skinner lit a candle in memory of Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.



Martin Skinner - February 21, 2012 at 08:00 PM

PB

“ Dear Paula, Terry, and Bruce –

With deepest sympathy to you and your families during this most difficult time. I know your father is joined at last with your mother, dancing and sharing stories and catching up on the time past. May you find comfort in your memories and lives with your father. He was a wonderful caring man, who led a remarkable life. I am so honored to have known him and have been his friend.

*With love,
Pam Bernard-Meil, Mark and Zach*



Pamela Bernard - February 21, 2012 at 07:58 PM

TT

Dear Pam, Mark, and family, just thinking about the nice party for dad and friends at Fishermans Inn. Wonderful to read always. Thank you, Love Terri

TERRI TILLMAN - May 22, 2014 at 10:10 AM



“ Colonel,

*It is hard to hear you've passed on but I know you were ready and had been for some time, ready to join your dearest Betty once again and meet your Savior face to face. You lived a beautiful life, a very fulfilling life. If only those of us left behind could aspire to a fraction of what you have achieved in your 89 years with the dedication, passion, honesty and integrity you carried on in your daily life and in service to this great country of ours, well we could all be better neighbors and carriers of our brothers and sisters, what a wonderful legacy and tribute to you that would be. I so enjoyed your stories, stories that needed to be told of what sacrifices soldiers such as yourself and your comrades made to ensure the freedoms so many take for granted. Dear friend, I will miss you! Dear soldier, I thank you and I salute you! And to your children, Paula, Terri (Miriam) and Bruce who took great care of you ,GOD bless you all. Rest in peace my dear friend Colonel Tillman. Until we meet again, Your friend
Teresa Rutter*



Teresa Rutter - February 21, 2012 at 05:29 PM

MG

“ *I was so sad to learn that one of my favorite people has died, but I know that he is back together with his beloved Betty, and that is a comfort. We talked often, and I will miss those Thursday morning phone calls. Col. Tillman was my hero, a great American, and he will be missed by all of us who knew him. God speed, Colonel.*

And to Paula, Bruce, Terry and the rest of his loved ones, I send my heartfelt sympathies.

Maryann Gapsis

Maryann Gapsis - February 21, 2012 at 03:59 PM

TT

Dear Maryann, thank you and pray all is well there, we are all still happy for dad and mom, and all fine with our family. Love Terri

TERRI TILLMAN - May 22, 2014 at 10:12 AM

KM

“ *So sad to see this, my mom used to be his caregiver, seems like yesterday he was congratulating me on my high school graduation, and taking pictures with me before prom. He will be missed.*

Kimberly Mills - February 21, 2012 at 10:21 AM

JD

“ *Godspeed Colonel,*

You brought our Dad home over 45 times in those shot up B-17's, and it was a great honor to finally meet you at that last Army-Air Force reunion with the rest of our family those many years ago. Now your crew is finally together again. Our prayers go out to your family to find strength in these coming days, and we will remember you always.

Sincerely,

John J. Dancey

Mike J. Dancey

Kathleen Boyle

John J. Dancey - February 21, 2012 at 10:07 AM

MW

“ Thanks for the memories Hank - Christmas brunches at Fort Meade, where you got all of the family together, your stories and more.

You will be missed.

To Paula, Terri and Bruce, your Dad is now with your Mom. I'm sure they are dancing it up and sharing stories with the rest of the family in heaven.

Love Joan, Michele, Jim & family

Jimmie & Family; Annette & Family, Amy & Family; Jennifer & husband

Michele Wallerich - February 21, 2012 at 09:14 AM

KM

“ Dear Paula, Terri and Bruce,
our deepest sympathies go out to you and your families at this time of loss. We all had a great affection for your father and are eternally grateful for his contributions to our country. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a gift of storytelling that we will always remember.

Our prayers are that you find love and comfort in each other and that your memories will bring you joy and and peace.

Warmest regards,

Kim Mallory, Ken Carlsen, Kevin, Eric & Scott



Kimberly Mallory - February 20, 2012 at 08:52 PM

TT

Dear Kim, thanks for all your love, friendship, and care to dad, and other family. What a great family yours is, everyone. This still is wonderful to read and think on. Love Terri

TERRI TILLMAN - May 22, 2014 at 10:16 AM

DS

“ *It's Sunset.--Gear coming up Colonel.
The Men's Auxiliary of VFW Post 7464 wishes a good journey to a
fine gentleman.*

Dennis Stephens - February 20, 2012 at 03:00 PM

LA

“ *Lisa Austin lit a candle in memory of Col.
Herman"Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.*



Lisa Austin - February 20, 2012 at 02:39 PM

LA

*Such a great man with so many wonderful accomplishments in is life.
He will be truly missed by all the lives he has touched. May god be with
his family during this time of sorrow. I'm sure Col. Tillman is flying
through the clouds of heaven right now smiling down on us all.*

Lisa Austin - February 21, 2012 at 08:49 AM

TT

*DEAR LISA, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE TO ALL OF US AT THIS
TIME. EVEN NOW, THE LOVE IS SHARED. TERRI, HIS YOUNGEST*

TERRI TILLMAN - May 22, 2014 at 10:02 AM



“ 6 files added to the album Col. H.G. "Hank" Tillman, USAF, Retired



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - February 20, 2012 at 02:32 PM

NR

“ On behalf of Kent Island American Legion Post 278, we are truly saddened to hear that Col Tillman has past away! He truly was an inspiration to all Veterans everywhere and he will be missed. God Bless.....Nikki Randolph, Commander

Nikki Randolph - February 20, 2012 at 09:35 AM

CG

“ Cheri Gerardi lit a candle in memory of Col. Herman "Hank" G. Tillman USAF, Ret.



Cheri Gerardi - February 20, 2012 at 09:34 AM

LB

“ Fly high Col Tillman - we will think of you fondly
and often



http://www.reddog1944.com/414th_Squadron_Tillan_Dancey.htm
Lisa & Michael Bedard

Lisa & Michael Bedard - February 20, 2012 at 06:35 AM

TT

*Thanks for always being there for dad and our family. Reading this is
always wonderful. Terri, "his youngest"*

TERRI TILLMAN - May 22, 2014 at 10:05 AM