



## Wyatt Lee Gillaspie

March 27, 1917 - December 1, 2012

Wyatt L. Gillaspie Wyatt Lee Gillaspie, age 95 of Houston, passed away Friday, November 23, 2012 at Southwest Memorial Hermann Hospital. Mr. Gillaspie fell and broke his arm September 2, 2012 and passed away after succumbing to age related health issues after his initial recovery from the fall. Mr. Gillaspie was born March 27, 1917 near Santa Anna, Texas. He was the youngest of the 7 children born to Ed Wood Gillaspie and Rose Ellen Carter Gillaspie/ The family returned to Dodge, Texas in 1918. He grew up in Dodge, Texas and attended Sam Houston State University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in the spring of 1938. After graduation he taught mathematics in Junior High School at Silsbee, Texas, and then later English, Speech and Music in High School at the Salem Consolidated School District, close to the city of Troop in East Texas. Mr. Gillaspie wanted to join the Navy, but instead volunteered for the Army Air Corps September 5, 1942. Mr. Gillaspie was stationed in San Antonio assigned to unit doing basic training for airmen. He volunteered for pilot training and graduated as a Celestial Navigator. He was then stationed in Hondo, Texas and taught navigation. Wanting to serve in combat Mr. Gillaspie continually volunteered for combat until he overrode his superiors and was transferred to Drew Field in Tampa, Florida for B-17 Flying Fortress training. Mr. Gillaspie flew 35 combat missions with the 1st Division, 8th Air Force, 306th Group, out of Thurleigh, England. He flew in combat from December 18, 1944 thru May 24, 1945, with his final missions being flown over Cologne and Dresden. Mr. Gillaspie achieved the

rank of 1st Lieutenant, and had the opportunity to stay in England and be promoted to Captain, but after the heavy losses over Cologne and Dresden Mr. Gillaspie decided to rotate back home, and was discharged December 5, 1945. The B-17 bomber that Mr. Gillaspie served in was named "Lassie Come Home". After returning to Houston, Mr. Gillaspie worked for the Humble Company for two and a half years as a roust-a-bout and a rough-neck. Mr. Gillaspie enrolled in the University of Houston thru the VA bill and took 20 hours of psychology working towards a Masters degree. He started working at Joske's Department Store in Houston as an Assistant Store Manager, and later worked for Foley's and finally for the Sears & Roebuck Company where he retired in 1977. Mr. Gillaspie invested in several rental properties and was a Master Mason and 32 degree Scottish Rite Mason for more than 50 years. Mr. Gillaspie is preceded in death by his two brothers, Wade Gillaspie of Dodge, Texas and Wilbourn Ed Gillaspie of Webster, Texas, and his four sisters Clara Green of Houston, Texas, Katherine Fowler of Houston, Texas, Allie G. Williams of Austin, Texas, and Mae Oates of Austin, Texas. A grave side service will be held 10:00 AM, Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the Dodge Cemetery in Dodge, Texas. A lunch and family visitation will be held immediately following the service at the Dodge Baptist Church, Dodge, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of: Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Drive, Huntsville, Texas 77340, (936) 291-7300. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Wyatt Lee Gillaspie

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ Mr. Wade, we are sorry for the loss of your brother. Miss seeing all of old friends since we moved to Lovelady. Norma Dell and Jerry

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**Norma Dell & Jerry D. Jones** - November 27, 2012 at 03:22 PM