

Decorated war hero, George Sparks, dies

The Fresno Bee

Retired United States Air Force/Air National Guard Col. George R. Sparks, 66, of Fresno died May 25 after a brief illness.

Col. Sparks was a graduate of Reedley High School and Reedley College, where he studied aeronautics.

He enlisted in the Air Force in 1950 and was commissioned and received his wings at Webb Air Force Base in Texas. In 1953, he completed his combat training and was assigned to the Korean theater where he flew 60 combat missions in the F-84G.

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and other awards and was later assigned as



George R. Sparks served 34 years in the Air Force and Air National Guard.

a flight commander.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Sparks of Fresno; two stepsons, Ret. Major Norman Ochinerero of Tucson and Rodney Ochinerero of Salinas; and one grandson, Ryan Ochinerero of Salinas.

Remembrances may be sent to the 144th Fighter Wing Benevolent Fund, 5323 E. McKinley Ave., Fresno 93727.

Arrangements are under the direction of The Neptune Society.