



## Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

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### **McINTIRE, CAPTAIN FRANCIS PERCIVAL JR. '39**

Killed in a plane crash near Shreveport, LA, in July 1949. McIntire was flying from Leigh Air Force Base, NV, to Savannah, GA, for a family funeral. His F-80 Shooting Star jet ran low on fuel and he opted to stay with the plane and guide it away from the city rather than jump.

Captain McIntire was an air ace with the USAAC in Germany, credited with six and one-half German planes. He flew 91 missions, far above the normal 60 required for rotation. He received the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Medal with fifteen clusters. He was on the recommended list for promotion to major when he was killed.

Before his enrollment in the aviation cadet training program in 1941, he attended Augusta and Armstrong Junior College in Savannah. He received his wings at Napier Field, Dothan, AL, in July 1942. He graduated first in his class, which was the first class to finish at the base. He served as a flight instructor until he went overseas in March 1944. Two days after D-Day he began his ten-month combat tour with the 354<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Ninth Air Force. He returned to the United States in February 1945.

On his flight to Savannah, he had been forced to circumnavigate a large thunderstorm area and had lost additional fuel due to a stuck float valve. McIntire was at 12,000 feet when the fuel ran out and the jet engine stopped. He attempted to glide in, could not make it, and banked the plane to keep from crashing in downtown Shreveport. When he did attempt to bail out, he was so low that the parachute failed to open. His body was found some ten yards from the wreckage of his plane. He had given his life to save others.

At Augusta for three years: Platoon Sergeant, Company D; Cavalry; Assistant Captain of Swimming Team, Peep Football, Monogram Club.

*(Savannah Evening Press)*