

# AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



## Colonel Maurice E. Gilbert

Maurice E. Gilbert was born in Caro, Michigan on February 5, 1923. He lived in both Flushing and Ypsilanti, Michigan, before moving to Gwinn, where he lived from 1929 to 1937. From 1938 to 1946, he lived in Marquette.

He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Western Michigan University in 1948, which included two years in college before the war and two years after the war.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Miscellaneous training occurred at Miami Beach, Florida, Due West, South Carolina, and Nashville, Tennessee before starting Basic Flight Training at Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama.

After Primary Flying at Carlstrom Field, Arcadia, Florida, Basic Flying at Gunter Field, Montgomery, Alabama, and Advanced Flying USMA Stewart Field, Newburgh, New York, he was awarded his Pilot's wings on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1944.

He then did Transitional Flying in B-17s from May to June 1944 at Lockbourne AAB, Columbus, Ohio and B-29 combat crew training duty from July to December, 1944 before being sent to Tinian, Mariana Islands, where he flew 12 combat missions against Japan in the 313<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, 504<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

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For this duty, he earned an Air Medal, a Unit Citation, U.S. Navy for mining the waters of Japan, an Asia-Pacific Medal, an American Campaign Service Medal, Victory Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

He was released from active duty on July 31, 1946 with a rank at discharge of First Lieutenant. Upon retirement on February 5, 1983, his rank was Colonel.

TJ Mudge, March 2004