

IN MEMORY OF

**BILLIE  
KENNEDY  
SHAW**

**Obituary for Billie Kennedy Shaw**

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Billie Kennedy ‘B.K.’ Shaw passed away on November 27, 2015. He was 96 at the time of his death. B.K. was born in Eustace, Texas on October 4, 1919, the son of Frank and Della Shaw. B.K. was the last surviving child of the couple’s seven children. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Sunnybrook Christian Church in Stillwater. Strode Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

B.K. grew up in East Texas, graduated from high school in Eustace and attended North Texas State College. When WWII broke out, without telling his parents, B.K. left school to join the Navy’s flight program, transitioning to the Marine fighter pilot program in Santa Barbara, California. While in California, B.K. married Marjorie Ford whom he had met in college. Upon completion of training as a Corsair pilot, B.K. was commissioned into the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant and flew with the 215th Marine Fighting Squadron in the South Pacific. By 1943, B.K. had been promoted to Captain and received the coveted Air Medal. The Presidential Citation accompanying the medal cites B.K. for “meritorious achievement in aerial flight as Division Leader in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands Area.” It outlines B.K.’s actions and describes him as “a fearless leader and outstanding airman” showing “cool courage and zealous devotion to duty.”

B.K. received the Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 Gold Stars, Air Medal with 4 Gold Stars and 1 Silver Star, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with 4 Bronze Stars, United Nations Service Medal, Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon Bar and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. B.K. was proud to have served to protect our country and its freedoms.

B.K. remained in the Marine Corps after WWII and flew missions in China and Korea. B.K. attained the rank of Lt. Colonel before he resigned from a distinguished Marine Corps career in 1954, moving his family, by then including three children, to Stillwater to acquire a small petroleum dealership. He built Shaw Gulf into a petroleum distribution and marketing success with operations

across Oklahoma.

B.K. lived the rest of his life in Stillwater, serving the community as a prominent businessman, City Commissioner, Chairman of the Urban Renewal Board, and an active member of the Chamber of Commerce. B.K. was a longtime advocate of the Stillwater Municipal Airport, now the Stillwater Regional Airport, and was instrumental in its development, and past President of The Oklahoma Oil Marketers. B.K. had a lifelong love of tennis and was ever-present on the courts of the City and the Stillwater Country Club. B.K. always had a racquet at hand and enjoyed playing with friends and associates all over the US. B.K. enjoyed travel, fishing, hunting, golf and spending time with his children, grandchildren, siblings and friends. He taught us many lessons about character, morals, principles and integrity. He will be missed!

B.K. Shaw is survived by his three children: Sidney Clark 'Rusty' Shaw II of Stillwater, married to Peggy Shaw; Patricia Shaw Gwin of Stillwater, married to John L. Gwin; and Stephen Harrison Shaw of Edmond. His grandchildren include: Jessica Barnes of Arlington, Virginia; Stephanie Coulter of Stillwater; Zachary Barnes of Tulsa; Cassidy Roach of Oklahoma City; Zane Shaw of Edmond; Geoffrey Shaw of California; and Harrison Shaw of Edmond. He is also survived by a number of great grandchildren and devoted nieces and nephews. Honorary pallbearers are Barden Kellum, Wade Doshier, Larry Gosney, Larry Hays, Bob Hert, Mark Grimsley, Mike Ebert, Roger Fowler, Dan Adams, Billy Jonas, Michael Gumps and Tyler Henry.

In his last years, B.K. had many drivers and caregivers. There are too many to mention all by name but the family will always be grateful for the care they provided B.K. We wish to acknowledge Tyler Henry, Michael Gumps, James Johnston and Grace Living Center for their care and a special thanks to Billy Jonas who cared for B.K. for 12 years until his passing.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to Dr. Sid Williams for his care, concern and friendship to B.K.

Memorial contributions can be made in B.K.'s name to the Exceptional Warriors Organization at The Few

P.O. Box 356, Bixby, Ok 74008 or [www.exceptionalwarrior.org](http://www.exceptionalwarrior.org) or to the Stillwater Family YMCA at 204 S. Duck St. Stillwater, OK. 74074: or charity of choice.

Condolences may be emailed to the family and an online obituary may be viewed by visiting [www.strodefh.com](http://www.strodefh.com) .